THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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U.S. SECY OF DEFENCE LLOYD AUSTIN BEGINS 2-DAY INDIA VISIT

The US is keen to bolster defence ties with India, especially in the area of technology transfer for the co-development of military hardware. On Monday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Austin will discuss a proposal by General Electric to share tech for co-development of fighter jet engines as well as India's plan to buy 30 MQ-9B armed drones from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc for $3 bn. China's aggressive behaviour along the LAC and the Indo-Pacific is also likely to figure in the talks

'CHANGE IN E-INTERLOCKING SYSTEM CAUSED CRASH'

Rlys recommends CBI probe; mainline junction had developed a snag before the mishap; persons responsible for accident identified; Toll revised down to 275; 88 bodies identified

BIJOY KETAN PRADHAN & HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
@Bhubaneswar / Bahanaga

Restoration of tracks in progress at the accident site in Balasore | DEBADATTA MALLICK

IN a curious turn of events, the Indian Railway Board on Sunday evening recommended the Centre to hand over the Bahanaga Bazar train accident case to CBI for investigation.

The announcement came from Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who earlier in the day had said the root cause of the accident and the people responsible for it had been identified. "It happened due to a change made in the electronic interlocking and point machine," he told reporters at the accident site in the morning.

However, in a hurriedly convened media conference at Rail Sadan, headquarters of the East Coast Railway in Bhubaneswar, after visiting survivors undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, he said the case needed further investigation. "Keeping in view the situation in which the accident took place and all the administrative information, this case is being considered for further investigation. Recommendation is being made by the Railway Board to hand the matter over to the CBI," Vaishnaw said.

The request for CBI probe has seemingly brought the sabotage angle into picture. A senior Railway official said prima facie the accident appears to be an act of sabotage, which is now seen as a criminal act. The CBI will be the competent agency to probe into the criminal aspect.

Earlier, Odishia CM Naveen Patnaik spoke to PM Narendra Modi, which officially was stated to be on the treatment of injured passengers. Patnaik assured Modi all possible steps are being taken to provide best of treatment to them.

According to some railway officials, human error is the reason behind the crash. "It was entirely a human error. We have identified it and found the involvement of two persons," a senior official told this paper.

The Bahanaga Bazar station, where the derailment occurred, has two mainline tracks. Up and Down lines for trains to pass through and two loop lines used for temporary halt to allow smooth movement of trains on the main lines. After a goods train was allowed to stay on the Up loop line, the signal was given for Coromandel Express on the Up mainline. Usually, after a train is allowed into loop by switching on the panel, it moves a piece of track from mainline to loop line. Once the train is in, the switch is moved back in the route relay panel to ensure that the moved piece of track is returned to its original position.

But here, the track piece did not return from the loop line to the mainline and the point was towards the loop line. Though the issue reflected on the panel at the station and a red light flashed for a few seconds, the station manager present at that time somehow missed it. By the time he saw the panel, there was nothing abnormal and he gave the signal.

As the piece of track, according to sources, had not returned to its original position, Coromandel Express dashed into the stationary iron ore-laden freight train at a speed of 130 kmph. Had the station manager noticed the red light and taken measures, this crash could have been avoided, said the senior official. Besides, the official said, it has come to light that the mainline and loop line junction had developed some snags and were 'repaired' by a signal maintainer.

"Possibly, this technician, who repaired the circuit made a direct connection with the signal bypassing the procedures. The assistant station manager, thus, could give the signal without knowing the track position. He adopted a shortcut method to repair the fault," the official added.

The electronic signalling system is error-proof and fail-safe, which means when it fails, all signals will turn red and all train operations will stop.

Station manager cannot give the signal if there is any fault in the lines. "This is perhaps for the first time in railways history, it happened due to the shortcut method adopted to repair the fault," sources said. P6,9

FROM JUNE 11

Women should show Aadhaar for free ride

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Davanagere/Chitradurga

ALL state-owned transport corporations are depending on Aadhaar card to find the domicile of women travellers and only Karnataka residents will be allowed to travel free under the government's Shakti scheme, which is coming into force from June 11, it is revealed.

Irrespective of a woman's original state, if she has an address changed to any city of Karnataka in the Aadhaar card, she is eligible to travel free. A woman traveller in a government bus should display the Aadhaar card and the conductor should issue the ticket having fare as 'zero' to the traveller.

Free bus travel for women was one of the five promises made by Congress ahead of the elections. KSRTC Divisional Controller Siddeshwara Hebbal told TNIE, "The modalities of implementation of the Shakti scheme are yet to be received by us from the KSRTC headquarters. Based on their directions, the scheme will be implemented."

"Even if a woman is from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala or any other state, if she has her address transferred to Karnataka it is sufficient for her to travel free," he explained.

"The ticket-issuing machines are being recalibrated and conductors will be trained on issuing tickets to women travellers. This is to avoid hiccups on June 11," he added.

He said there will be no pilferage of the corporation's revenue as all buses will be inspected compulsorily by teams of inspectors at various points in the state. He said that 50 per cent of the seats in the state-owned transport corporation buses are reserved for men. KSRTC, NWKRTC, NEKRTC and BMTC are re-calibrating their software in the system and the ticketing machines.

CONG MAY DEPLOY 'K'TAKA MODEL' IN OTHER STATES: P4

DON'T REDUCE MILK PROCUREMENT PRICE: SIDDARAMAIAH TO KMF

CM Siddaramaiah on Sunday directed the KMF not to reduce the price fixed for milk procurement from farmers by Re 1. This comes after Bamul's (Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd) decision to reduce the procurement price of milk. "Farmers will suffer if the price is reduced," the CM said, who has spoken to the KMF MD | P4

Tipu Jayanti may be back, will discuss it, says MB Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

MINISTER for Medium and Large Industries MB Patil on Sunday indicated that the Congress government is likely to repeal the controversial Cow Slaughter Act, withdraw the anti-conversion law and resume the Tipu Sultan Jayanti.

However, since "these matters are sensitive, they will be discussed in detail in the party and the government," he said.

On restoring the 4% reservation for Muslims, which was scrapped by the previous BJP government, he refused to comment as the matter is subjudice. Calling the reservation hike by 2% for SCs an "eyewash" by the previous administration, he said the state government has no right to hike SC reservation.

"The state government can only recommend it. But the Centre has to approve and amend certain schedules in the Constitution. The previous BJP government just announced the hike without following any procedure," he said.

Patil said he will appeal to CM Siddaramaiah to remove the 50% reservation cap so that various communities can benefit. Accusing BJP of only raising "sensitive and senseless issues such as hijab and halal", he said the BJP government had failed to uplift the lives of people. "Our government won't spare people who create communal tensions," he said.

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
G20
Government of Karnataka
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Manage Plastic Pollution Properly Protect Environment and Save Life!
Sri. Eshwara Khandre, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment held a review meeting with the officials to get comprehensive information.
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
June 5, 2023
Solutions to Plastic Pollution
Published under public interest
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
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Fax : 080-25588321, E-mail:ho@kspcb.gov.in Website:https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
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ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 05/06/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Grishma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Prathami 7.26 am • Nakshatra: Moola 3.14 am • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST: Showers late. Overcast.
Sunrise 5.52 am | Sunset 6.43 pm | Moonrise 8.13 pm | Moonset 6.41 am

NO FREE RIDE, BUT 50% BUS SEATS FOR MEN

Women have to leave the seat if a man wants to sit, say officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS transport corporations gear up to roll out free bus travel for women, the first thing they would do is reserve 50 per cent of the seats for men.

For the first time, public buses will have seats reserved for men, the transport corporations said.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), and North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWSRTC) are shouldering an onerous task to ensure that women can travel for free.

The cabinet meeting has approved all the five guarantees which have come with riders. But now, the transport corporation authorities have to ensure that there is no confusion regarding the free bus rides for women, and they are able to reap the benefits.

The officials clarified that women can occupy the seats reserved for men, but have to leave it if a man wants to sit. There is no cap on the number of women who are willing to stand, the official said.

"After rolling out the 'Shakti' scheme, we are expecting a sudden jump in the number of women riders. Since men have to buy tickets, 50 per cent seats will be reserved for them. If seats reserved for women are filled, they can occupy the seats for men if they are empty," said a KSRTC official, adding, "Stickers will demarcate the seats reserved for men before rolling out the scheme".

As clarified by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, there will be no change in the reservation of seats followed by the BMTC buses.

Mixed reactions on Shakti scheme

The Shakti scheme evinced mixed reactions among women. While some claimed it will be a game-changer, others doubted if it will be of any help at all.

Ranjita Singh said that the scheme will become a huge financial burden on the state's exchequer. Sofia Linshi said the scheme will be similar to any other government scheme with little improvements. Hilda Ropas thinks otherwise, and said the scheme will help significantly in the development of the state.

"It will be a challenge to implement the free travel scheme. Compared to working women who can afford to buy tickets, I feel this scheme will be more helpful for non-working women," said Shakuntala Deb.

After rolling out the 'Shakti' scheme, we are expecting a sudden jump in the number of women riders. Since men have to buy tickets, 50 per cent seats will be reserved for them. If seats reserved for women are filled, they can occupy the seats for men if they are empty – KSRTC official

Experts: Poor women may miss out on Gruha Lakshmi

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE objective of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme will be defeated if women from stable financial backgrounds are largely benefitted, said experts.

Gruha Lakshmi is one of the five guarantees announced by Congress and approved by the government. It promises Rs 2,000 monthly incentive to all the women heads of households aged above 18 who are married, divorced or destitute.

Geeta Menon, who works with multiple associations, including Sadhana Mahila Sangha and Domestic Workers Rights Union, said that though the scheme is pro-women, providing incentives for those from stable financial backgrounds is a misstep. If the entire women population is eligible, many from low income groups may be deprived, she said.

Freelance consultant Jyothi Bijukumar, associated with many women and child related NGOs, questioned the criteria to identify which women should be considered 'head of household'. Usually, all households are run by men.

Experts said there is a lack of clarity over criteria for implementation. If that is not resolved, the scheme will end up being another one which started with a good intention but failed to reach the most vulnerable groups, she added.

Registration for the scheme will be open from June 15 to July 15, and will be officially launched on Independence Day.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

More corporates should come forward and create sustainable mobility infrastructure for their staff. We are excited and observing how the campaign pans out over the months – Sathya Sankaran, Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru

Volunteers cycle as part of 'Green Wheels Cyclothon' to create awareness on sustainable mode of transport, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Pedalling towards sustainable mobility

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE cycle bells rung in the second edition for 'Cycle for Change' and 'Cycle to Work', which was launched on World Bicycle Day on June 3.

Cycle to work, was their message. To celebrate the initiative, many organisations involved the children and the elderly in various activities.

"More corporates should come forward and create sustainable mobility infrastructure for their staff. We are excited and observing how the campaign pans out over the months," said Sathya Sankaran, Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru. With most staffers now back to their offices, there has been a rise in traffic snarls.

Reclaim public space

Community members in Malleswaram on Sunday organized a cycling day for the elderly and children. They played games, compete, participate in CrossFit activities and more. The idea stems from wanting to "reclaim public spaces" and encouraging youngsters to spend their holidays differently. In the group were a six-year-old and a 93-year-old. Over 200 people participated in the 'Cycle Day' programmes organized in partnership with the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) on 13th Cross, Malleswaram.

Rekha Chari, president, Malleshwaram Swabhimanaa Initiative, said, "We want to organise these events frequently so that pedestrians and cyclists feel like the streets belong to them. Vehicles have increased manifolds, pushing pedestrians to a corner."

The government should bring in more collaborative activities and hold talks between citizens and the authorities.

A stall was put up for citizens which showed street maps to decide which should be the 'slow streets,' corridors designated as shared spaces for pedestrians, bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, and cars.

Residents have to scan a QR code to answer questions on mobility and which should be made 'slow streets'. This was being done by German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in collaboration with DULT to get feedbacks and present them before the government.

Cyclists said the streets are extremely unsafe for them, and it is evident from the fact that number of cycles are plummeting. Arvind Dwarkanath, member, Council For Active Mobility (CFAM), said, "We are trying to spread the message that if you can complete your chores within 15 mins of distance, cycle or walk."

A volunteer, Sudha Babu said, "Today children are glued to their gadgets. Events like this will help them socialise."

POOR RESULTS

BBMP FORMS PANEL TO VET TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has formed a committee headed by IAS officer Preeti Gehlot as Special Commissioner (education) to look into the qualifications of the teachers to be hired and conduct background checks.

Authorities indicated that poor results of BBMP schools in the 2022-23 state examinations were due to unqualified teachers.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath told TNIE that despite appeals to appoint qualified teachers, nothing has been done. "Becoming a teacher requires basic qualifications, including passing PUC and undertaking the TET. However, background checks of teachers revealed that many do not have these qualifications," he said.

While an overall pass percentage for the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations of 83.89 per cent, BBMP schools recorded only 67.53 per cent. The schools historically have low pass percentages in board examinations, even below 50 per cent at times. The schools also suffer from an acute shortage of teachers.

In total, there are around 142 schools under the Palike. They face the usual problems of lack of infrastructure and equipment, but a major concern is lack of qualified teachers. "We have been asking for qualified teachers who are professional and are able to carry out their duties properly," Girinath said.

At present, the process of hiring teachers is under way, which is likely to be completed by June-end. Many teachers were hired on contracts which are going to expire.

Residential schools: No 2nd round allotment

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE second round seat allotment for school admissions under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) has been withdrawn.

This comes after students, who had been allotted seats under the special category in the second round, already got their seats during the first round in general category.

According to KEA, the first round list was published on May 27 and second round on May 31.

As per rules, students from socially-weaker sections are given consideration and allotted seats in both the first and second rounds. However, KEA found many students allotted seats in the second round under the special category had already been allotted seats in the general category based on merit in the first round.

"The special category candidates have already got admissions in the first stage and they have sought to be given the seat there. In view of the fact, many seats allotted to special category candidates in the second tier are likely to be added to the seat matrix," KEA officials said.

Many work late, allow eateries to be open 24/7: Forum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bangalore Hotel Association (BBHA) requested the state government to direct the city police to allow restaurants to remain open 24/7.

Earlier, the government had issued guidelines to keep the restaurants open round the clock. But the Bengaluru Police rejected permission citing staff crunch. The association, which looks after hotels, restaurants, bakeries, sweet shops and ice cream parlors, has now written to Home Minister Dr G Parmeshwara to implement the rule, which has been approved by both the state and the central governments.

"There are many who work late such as milk, vegetable, and flower vendors. They don't find anything to eat," the letter read. The association also said newspaper suppliers and travelers who work nights also need food. "There are police personnel and medical professionals who will also benefit," said BBHA.

PC Rao, president, BBHA, said, "Notification should be put into effect immediately. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi have allowed it. Why not Karnataka?" He also said that restaurants only in commercial areas will be open so that residential areas are not disturbed. Also permission should be given only to restaurants and small eateries, and not bars, he said.

The letter said the decision will create jobs and bolster business. Travellers can also find water and use the washrooms. If the government does not allow it, the association will move court as the police cannot prevent the implementation of notifications, said Rao.

M'luru airport shifts to 100% LEDs

Mangaluru: The Mangaluru International Airport on the eve of World Environment Day has reached yet another critical milestone in its resolve of achieving the Net Zero goal. The airport has done this by switching over all its conventional lights to the energy efficient lighting system in a phased manner. In replacing 1,111 conventional lights spread across various functional areas with as many LED lights, the airport has achieved 100% conversion of lights with LED ones. This changeover will help the airport overall save 188,558.96 kWH/annum. The biggest saving will be seen in the National Air Traffic Services building area where the airport will save 1.17-lakh kWH/annum with the use of 752 LED lights. **ENS**

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

05th June : When does the astrological year begin? Some people obsess about January 1st, but I would say that every moment offers us a chance to take major decisions. That's why I also celebrate Pongal on 15 January, Persian New Year on 21 March, the Summer Solstice on 21 June - and the Winter Solstice on 21 December! However, every day brings a new astrological cycle and so an opportunity for a fresh start.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The fact that Mercury and Venus are loosely challenging your sign should be positive for your plans and partnerships, and amazing gains are promised to Ariens who thrive on challenge. You must stick with practical responsibilities, even if your first instinct is to run away.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Today's Moon is deeply favourable, which is bound to help you in almost any venture. There's a golden rule though, and that's to be as diplomatic as you possibly can. Travel plans should go well, and you can afford to indulge your heart's desire in love. Don't hold back!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Cash plans require a little extra scrutiny, although there is good news on the way. If you're involved in the property market, or otherwise making large domestic purchases, you should be on the right course. But keep a close eye on changing conditions or you might be caught out.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You always tend to make mountains out of molehills. However, sometimes that is a good thing, for only if you exaggerate small events will you conjure up the grand ambitions which are necessary for a truly fulfilled life. A little imagination can go a long way.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Financial conditions still look decidedly positive and will continue to do so for some time. Meanwhile, it will do you good to check practical details and uncover inefficiency. Romantic plans take a turn for the better, and you will soon find that you were right about a particular person.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are now flying through your chart like a flock of exotic birds, revealing wisdom, good fortune and pressure for change, although not necessarily in that order. Let yourself go, and investigate prospects which once seemed beyond your grasp.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
If you are confused, it's because you are trying too hard to understand a world which is completely irrational! Do yourself a favour, lie back and let your dreams carry you to new lands. You never know - you might come up with some utterly brilliant ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You are still inclined to keep your feelings to yourself, much as you may wish to brag and bluster about other areas of your life. Actually, it would do you good to show off a bit, rather than always being so humble. I mean, if you don't blow your own trumpet, nobody else will!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
A remarkable line-up of planets indicates that career interests are becoming more important, although you'll have difficulty combining existing domestic commitments with new working responsibilities. You need to be noticed! But then, why not?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Are you sure you want to accept what is on offer, or do you want to hold out for the best? There could be a third option, and if you are extremely fleet of foot you may actually be able to have your cake and eat it. Sometimes you get what you deserve!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You have a few private fears and secret worries, as you are only too aware. Today's planets highlight your inner insecurity, but give you the chance to overcome your lack of confidence and lay foundations for the future. A little courage will come in handy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Partners seem to be in a triumphant mood. It isn't important whether they have anything to be pleased about or not. Your only concern should be to put your own doubts to one side and be happy for them. You might just find that they take you more seriously in future.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

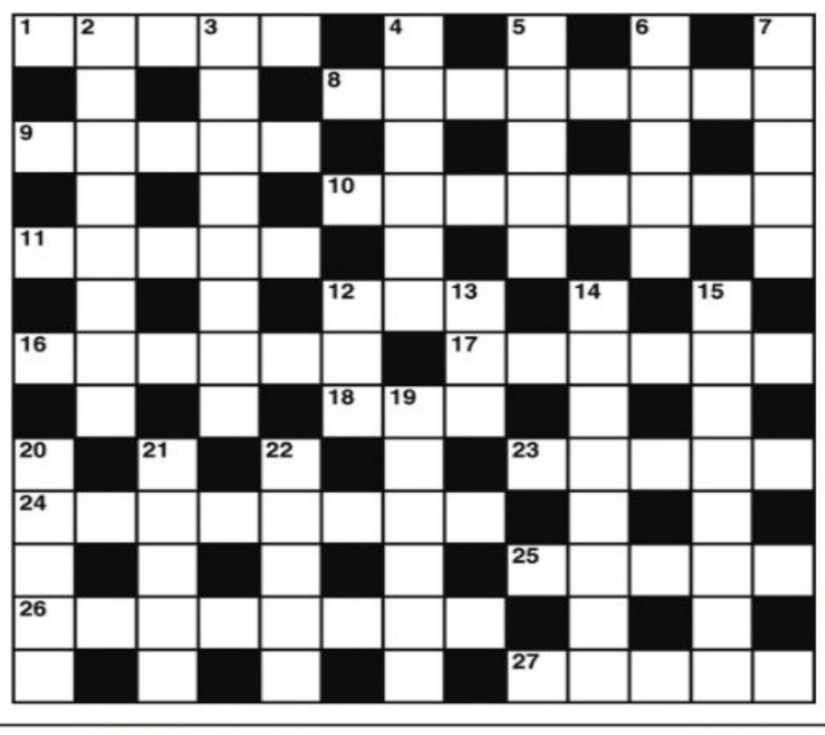
			3			2	4	
				2	8	6		
6				1	7			8
						4	8	
3			7		5			1
	5	9						
2			1	7				4
		3	2	5				
	9	1			3			

7	5	6	4	9	3	8	2	1
3	8	1	7	5	2	6	9	4
2	4	9	8	1	6	3	5	7
8	3	7	6	2	9	1	4	5
4	6	2	1	8	5	7	3	9
9	1	5	3	4	7	2	8	6
1	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	2
6	2	4	5	7	8	9	1	3
5	9	3	2	6	1	4	7	8

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Just the girl for an excursion (5)
8 Make little of (8)
9 Notes about masonry (5)
10 Late item for the press (8)
11 She gives a direction to the printer to erase (5)
12 Ready for collection (3)
16 Hit a pole with a goods vehicle (6)
17 Unwilling to make up a piece of poetry (6)
18 Change direction in a different way (3)
23 Chance of a rest (5)
24 They make a quiet approach, putting a point to lecturers (8)
25 Morning custom which can cause laughter (5)
26 Being challenged he has a second helping (8)
27 Girl has love in her heart for another (5)

DOWN
2 It's taken as a medicine; not a diet properly (8)
3 Lion and mule collapsed on the floor (8)
4 Gloomy doctor put in a sensitive spot (6)
5 Make staid entrances (5)
6 Insert in a song (5)
7 How an old journalist reportedly looks (5)
12 Hit a ball right up. Heavens! (3)
13 Some get a white marble to play with (3)
14 Bank go-between? (8)
15 He kills a couple of fools in the end (8)
19 Stop in the name of the law (6)
20 A word in one's ear from aides (5)
21 Part of the roof often dropped (5)
22 A frame of mind? (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Mother-to-be, 6 Oboe, 10 Irked, 11 Chain gang, 12 Farewell, 13 Cadet, 15 Retorts, 17 Science, 19 Stretch, 21 Renewal, 22 Antic, 24 Absentee, 27 Ebullient, 28 Gusto, 29 Note, 30 Polo player.

Down: 1 Mail, 2 Take after, 3 Endue, 4 Tickets, 5 Beagles, 7 Board, 8 Eight bells, 9 Inaction, 14 Crustacean, 16 Reticule, 18 New Jersey, 20 Heave to, 21 Risotto, 23 Trust, 25 Nigel, 26 Door.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TUAEC

RANBO

PUEPIL

MSIEIL

Just think if you could watch this on your computer.
Yeah, right! It would take 100 floppies just so I could watch it on a green-and-black screen.
IN THE PAST, THE IDEA OF STREAMING A MOVIE DIGITALLY WOULD HAVE SEEMED ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

__ - " ____ " - ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FROZE EIGHT PICNIC ADRIFT
Answer: With $1,000 being the most that could be won on the scratch-off game, it was the — GRAND PRIZE

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Admitting that Karnataka has made a mark in the fields of IT and biotechnology, but is still lagging behind in the manufacturing sector, Medium and Large Industries Minister M B Patil said that his ministry is studying different models for giving a thrust to manufacturing in Karnataka

Cong to use 'K'taka Model' for polls in other states

Focus will be LS elections as party aims to win 21 seats in state

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

AFTER scripting a massive victory in the state Assembly polls, Congress strategists are unlikely to go jobless anytime soon. They are now charged up to try the 'Karnataka Model' in the upcoming polls in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, hoping that the results in these states could set a trend for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The key strategist, Sunil Kanugolu, who has been appointed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's chief political adviser, is likely to focus on different polls till 2024. He has started travelling across the country again, after being busy with the Karnataka polls for the last nine months.

After studying the ground situation in different states, including Telangana -- which he is well versed with, he is likely to chalk out a plan and present it before the Congress high command as soon as party senior leader Rahul Gandhi returns from the United States, sources said.

Rahul, in one of his addresses in the US, had mentioned Karnataka polls, saying it was people's vote against politics of hatred, price rise and unemployment. He had hoped that the trend would continue with the Assembly polls in other states. The strategy that was employed in Karnataka will be used in other states, political pundits said.

With this, the party will also try to tackle Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, who are at loggerheads with each other, the sources said.

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister late YS Rajashekar Reddy's daughter and YSR Telangana Party chief YS Sharmila Reddy has already reached out to KPCC president and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, indicating that her party could be an alliance option for the Grand Old Party, they added.

The strategists are unlikely to focus on BBMP and zilla and taluk panchayat polls in Karnataka, as their main aim will be the Lok Sabha elections. The party has set a target of winning at least 21 of the 28 seats. Already, the names of family members of veteran leaders are being discussed. Those are, Siddaramaiah's son Dr Yathindra (Mysuru), Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter Priyanka (Belagavi), Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy's daughter Sowmya Reddy (Bengaluru South), former minister MS Seetaram's son Raksha Ramaiah (Chikkaballapur), Hungund MLA Vijayananda Kashappanavar's wife Veena (Bagalkot), Shanthinagar MLA NA Haris' son Mohammed Haris Nalpad (Bengaluru Central) and former MP and actor Ramya AKA Divya Spandana (Mandya). They have been asked to star work on the ground, the sources said.

Scouting is also on for young faces and the names of Dr BC Mudduganagadhar (Kolar), who surrendered the Mulbagal Assembly ticket obeying the party high command, and Nikethraj Mourya for Tumakuru have been discussed, they added.

> **Many of them (ASHA workers) are working for the last many years. If the government does not implement its promise immediately, we will be forced to come out on the streets**
>
> An activist working for worker rights

Demand for more sops pours in, state's finances to come under strain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

EVEN as the state government tries to implement the five guarantee schemes, which are seen to be laying a huge financial burden on its coffers, various bodies are gearing up to put pressure on the Siddaramaiah-led dispensation to implement manifesto promises announced for anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, farmers, and other sectors, which could mean more financial strain.

In its manifesto, the Congress had announced that it would increase salaries of anganwadi and mini anganwadi workers to Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 from the existing Rs 12,500 and Rs 7,000 per month (plus Rs 1,000 announced by the BJP government), respectively. Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, S Varalakshmi, president, Karnataka State Anganwadi Employees' Association, said that presently, anganwadi workers are getting Rs 12,500 per month. "I do not agree with the assurances given in their manifesto, Rs 15,000 means it is just Rs 2,500, which we won't accept; we will have to fight for it," she said. There are over 66,000 anganwadis in Karnataka.

Women and Child Welfare Department sources said with CM Siddaramiah presenting the budget next month, followed by the budget session in Vidhana Soudha, union members will protest at Freedom Park or nearby, asking for their demands to be met. "This requires a huge amount of money," said an official on condition of anonymity.

Not just this, the government also promised to increase honararium for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers to Rs 8,000 per month, from the existing Rs 6,000. There are close to 50,000 ASHA workers in Karnataka. "Many of them are working for the last many years. If the government does not implement its promise immediately, we will be forced to come out on the streets. This cannot be a five-year plan," said an activist, adding they will give time till July and then decide the next course of action

The manifesto also assured additional allowance of Rs 5,000 per month for police personnel on night duty, along with a month's salary. "Police personnel cannot come out in protest. Though Rs 5,000 is encouraging for the personnel on night beat, it causes huge burden on the government. It may not be implemented immediately," said a state police officer.

The party also promised to increase financial incentive to dairy farmers from Rs 5 to Rs 7 per litre, while assuring to regularise over 25,000 pourakarmikas working in various urban local bodies, which again results in additional burden on the state government.

BJP slams minister's cow slaughter remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP leaders slammed Animal Husbandry Minister **K Venkatesh**'s statement that if buffaloes can be slaughtered, why not cows.

Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said Indians have an emotional attachment with cows, and also worship them. "Minister Venkatesh's statement is condemnable. Looks like Venkatesh is trying to woo a certain section of people," he charged, adding that this statement could encourage more illegal slaughter and transportation of cattle in Karnataka.

Bommai said it was Mahatma Gandhi who first initiated putting a stop to cow slaughter in India. The same was implemented in 1960 by many states. "During our government, we strengthened the anti-cow slaughter law to prevent illegal activities. We have not got any new act, but strengthened the existing law. With the minister's statement, illegal activities will increase," he said, adding that ministers should think twice before giving such statements. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should guide ministers in this regard," he advised.

Even former animal husbandry minister Prabhu Chavan said that after the implementation of the Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act during the BJP government, they had worked hard to protect cows. Animal welfare helpline, animal welfare board, goshalas in districts, and animal treatment ambulances were allotted by their government. "We had taken all necessary steps for cow conservation," he said, alleging that the Congress, after coming to power, is showing its true colours. He urged the new government to look into the emotional aspects, and not political.

AMENDMENT TO ANTI-COW SLAUGHTER BILL WILL HELP FARMERS, SAYS KULKARNI

BELAGAVI: Referring to the contentious anti-cow slaughter bill in the state, Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni on Sunday sought an amendment to the same, in a bid to aid farmers. "An amendment should be brought to the Karnataka anti-cow slaughter bill to help the farmers of Karnataka," reiterated the former minister. Speaking to reporters at circuit house in Belagavi on Sunday, Kulkarni claimed, "The BJP leaders, who speak much about the anti-cow slaughter bill, do not rear cows at home. But I rear the highest number of livestock in the state. An opinion of cattle-rearing farmers must be considered and an amendment should be brought to the bill." "At present, machinery has become commonplace in the dairy business. Machines have replaced oxen, and farmers are clueless what to do with their old livestock which cannot provide milk. There is need to conserve native varieties of livestock, but the solutions to manage older animals are also much-needed. Therefore, an amendment should be brought to this bill instead of politicising this issue, since it involves farmers," he added.

Let Centre probe Shobha's 'foreign hand' remark: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Udupi

CONGRESS MLC **Manjunath Bhandary** said that Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje's statement on foreign funding for protests in India is childish, and shows how she is frustrated after her party faced a debacle in the recent state Assembly elections. Shobha had on Saturday claimed that the protests in India are funded by a 'foreign hand', referring to the wrestlers' protest in Delhi.

Bhandary countered that the BJP-led Union government can probe if her statement was true, since all investigating agencies are with the Centre. Referring to Shobha expressing doubts about the financial backing for Congress' five guarantees, Bhandary said, "Let the Union government release GST compensation to the state on time and not worry about the funds required for implementing the five guarantee schemes. We are answerable to the people and we will answer to them, not to BJP leaders."

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday, the MLC further said that earlier, BJP leaders used to question when the five guarantee schemes would be implemented? "Now, they are questioning how the government will source the funds. However, the state government is committed to fulfilling its five guarantee schemes. BJP leaders are also ridiculing how the people will travel in Dakota buses? By this statement, BJP leaders are trying to hide facts. Were there any different buses when the BJP was in power, were people not travelling in the same buses?" he questioned.

IN HONOUR OF

Former chief minister SM Krishna inaugurates the 139th birth anniversary of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, at Kannada Sahitya Parishath in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Appalling backwardness on B'luru outskirts, says Forest Minister Khandre

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

KPCC working president and Forest Minister **Eshwar Khandre** told *TNIE* in an exclusive interview, "The man-animal conflict has claimed two lives in a highly vulnerable zone in the Bannerghatta-Kanakapura area which is on the periphery of Bengaluru. Today (Sunday), I visited the families of the deceased -- Kalaiah and Veerabhadra, who were killed by elephants -- and gave cheques of Rs 15 lakh each."

He said, "The families of the deceased, who worked as guards at mango orchards, had no Aadhaar cards or bank accounts. Their children are not enrolled in schools. This level of backwardness in a place so close to the capital city is appalling. I have spoken to revenue officials, the tahsildar and others. I have also informed DK Suresh, who is the area MP. I suggested that the families deposit the money in a fixed deposit in a bank and use the interest."

On the man-animal conflict which is a perennial problem in Karnataka where herds of elephants stay in farms and estates for months because of lack of fodder in forests, the minister said he is aware of the problem. "Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada and Mysuru districts have been affected by this. Sometimes it is elephants and at other times it is leopards and tigers. I have ordered that two more quick response teams, in addition to the existing five, be constituted to deal with the problem."

Khandre said barricades using rails are being put up around forests and around half of the work is complete. There is a proposal to put up solar fencing which is also under progress. All solutions will be looked into, he added.

On widening of roads from 6 metre to 22 metre and linear projects causing havoc in the fragile Western Ghats, Khandre said he will hold meetings with forest officials to ensure that rules and regulations are followed and the damage to environment is minimised.

On many promises that the party had made in its manifesto on ecology and environment, he said all the promises will be fulfilled.

'AIM IS TO WIN 25-26 LS SEATS'

Eshwar Khandre, who is also the working president of KPCC, said Congress is looking at winning 25-26 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats next year and the work has already begun. Asked about the party prospects in the ZP/TP and BBMP polls, he said there are procedural issues like delimitation which are being looked into.

CM intervenes, asks milk unions not to cut procurement price for farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister **Siddaramaiah** on Sunday gave strict instructions to the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) not to reduce the price of milk procured from farmers by Re 1 from Rs 32.25 to Rs 31.25.

As it gave indication of triggering a controversy and opposition making it an issue, Siddaramaiah intervened and asked the KMF to stall its decision.

Soon after the decision of Bamul (Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd) came to his notice, Siddaramaiah swung into action, while Bamul cited the increase in prices of milk products as the reason for its decision. He spoke to the KMF managing director and told him that the price cannot be reduced suddenly and it should be discussed with the government. "Farmers will suffer if the price is reduced and one should keep that in mind," he said.

Bamul's decision was widely criticised by farmers, Raitha Sangha members and opposition parties.

The Mandya Milk Union Limited (Manmul) too reduced the procurement price three days ago from Rs 32.25 per litre to Rs 31.25. But both the unions had not reduced the selling price of milk to consumers.

The milk unions said they reduced the procurement price as the production of milk in May went up because of better rain and availability of wet fodder to the cattle.

"Our market for the milk remained the same and we were to incur losses if we continued with the old price. When the production of milk goes down, the procurement price will automatically be increased," said a director with one of the milk unions.

The unions have Rs 300 crore arrears due from the government against milk supplied to schoolchildren under the Ksheera Bhagya scheme, he said.

The Tumakuru Milk Union Limited (Tumul) did not reduce the procurement price, though its daily production went up to 7.1 lakh litres from 6.9 litres in May. This is because it has created a market for its milk and other products across the country, especially Mumbai, a source said.

"Reducing the milk procurement price will destroy the unions as private dairies are already competing with Nandini milk. We need to create a market fighting with Amul. The new government should take this as a wake-up call and instruct milk unions to drop the decision," Raitha Sangha leader Kuruburu Shantakumar had urged the government.

Milk union decision would have affected us: Farmers

> **Our market for the milk remained the same and we were to incur losses if we continued with the old price. When the production of milk goes down, the procurement price will automatically be increased**
>
> A director with a milk union
>
> **The KMF, maintaining that milk production has increased, had plans of cutting down prices by Re 1 to Rs 2 per litre, which would have hit producers, as lakhs of families are dependent on dairy activities**
>
> Kuruburu Shantakumar, farmer leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

FARMERS had strongly opposed the move to cut procurement price of milk, which was later asked to be withdrawn by the chief minister. The farmers feared that the move would have further affected them, as they had not been paid support prices for the past four months. Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association president Kuruburu Shantakumar had claimed that milk producers are already affected by the increase in prices of feed and are paid Rs 34 per litre, when the private dairies are paying Rs 46 per litre.

He said the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), maintaining that milk production has increased in recent months, had plans of cutting down the prices by Re 1 to Rs 2 per litre, which would have hit producers, as lakhs of families are dependent on dairy activities for their livelihood. Urging KMF to drop the proposal to reduce milk prices, he had warned of launching a stir, had the new government proceeded with its plan against farmers' interest.

When the government wants to stop the entry of Amul products into Karnataka, it should also release a support price of Rs 5 per litre on a monthly basis and increase milk prices and make payments on a daily basis like the private sector. He also observed that farmers in border villages are selling milk to private dairies, paying higher prices, instead of opting for Nandini.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

BJP to protest govt's anti-people decisions: Gen secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP state general secretary and MLC **N Ravikumar** said the party will protest across the state on Monday and Tuesday, demanding the withdrawal of anti-people decisions of the state government.

"Animal Husbandry Minister Venkatesh has said the anti-cow slaughter Act, enacted by the previous BJP government, would be withdrawn. We will not allow cow slaughter again. Congress has repeatedly said it is a burden for farmers to look after aged and unproductive cattle. They have said farmers suffer perennial losses and it is difficult even to bury cows after they die. The minister announced that he would allow old cows to be slaughtered," Ravikumar said.

"The Siddaramaiah government is trying to allow cow slaughter. BJP condemns the abrogation of the law. A large-scale agitation will be held if the anti-cow slaughter law is withdrawn," he warned.

On free power announced by the government, he said the state government has imposed restrictions. "Why is it a crime to cross the limit, based on the previous year's average, set by the government," he asked.

Four youths died on the spot when their car rammed a garbage truck on Bengaluru - Mangaluru Highway in Nagamangala taluk, in Mandya district, on Sunday.

K'TAKA TAKES FIRST STEP IN CLEARING PLASTIC FROM SEAS

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE Karnataka is taking its first steps towards formally addressing the issue of plastic along its coastline, a major hurdle before it is the management of thermocol waste.

Officials at the National Green Tribunal and marine experts said thermocol should be banned immediately. Despite the rules banning plastic in 2016 and amending them in 2022, making them more stringent by banning single-use plastic, it is still found in abundance. Now is the right time to stop the use of thermocol in packing, processing and transportation. Collection of thermocol from oceans has become a tedious exercise and many a time it is not even possible to retrieve this waste as it disintegrates, contributing to microplastic waste that enters into people's bloodstream.

Karnataka, which is a leader in environmental protection and in ensuring an increase in wildlife population, now it has become the first state to control plastic pollution on its coasts. Under its K-Shore (Karnataka - Surface Sustainable Harvest of Ocean Resources) programme, also known as Blue-Plastic project, the state's environment and forest departments have taken up a five-year initiative to clear plastic from the Arabian Sea.

The project is clearing not just floating plastic waste, but also legacy plastic waste. It will also help address the issue of microplastic, which is affecting the health of aqua life. The programme will cover protection of estuaries, mangroves, coastline plantations and afforestation.

All the trash thrown into water bodies, like lakes, drains and rivers, eventually end up in the sea. For example, the pollution in Vrishabhavathi Valley, which is a tributary of Cauvery river, and pollutants thrown into rivers in the pristine Western Ghats or drains in coastal areas flow into the sea. This is resulting in fish kill not just in lakes and rivers, but also in oceans.

Despite the ban on plastic, it is still finding its way into one's biological system as people are increasingly consuming food items filled with microplastics.

This is because the ban on single-use plastic is not being imposed effectively. It continues to be part of people's daily lives and all this plastic waste is found in large quantities in oceans. Worryingly, there is no study to ascertain the exact quantity of plastic floating in the sea and the legacy waste.

According to the Karnataka Fisheries Department, till March 2023, 12.25 lakh metric tonnes of marine and inland fish catch was reported, of which 7.3 lakh metric tonne was marine fish. The officials did not deny the presence of microplastics in the bodies of aqua life, but admitted that so far no studies have been done. They said they are not banning fishermen from using plastic fishing nets or using plastic and thermocol to pack and store their catch.

Marine and ocean experts said that though these numbers indicate an increase in fish population, there are multiple worries, the biggest being the quality of fish and its effect on people.

"Fish are not territorial. Large catch in one area also means there is a depletion in another area and fish could have moved because of increasing pollution. Private studies in other countries have shown the presence of PVC, aluminum and plastic in fish. Many endemic fish species that were found 30 years ago in Mangaluru and other coasts in Karnataka are now extinct. There is no scientific regulation for fishing and fish with contaminants are landing on people's plates. Studies have shown that of the 200 fish-eating people, 80 have microplastics in their bloodstream. No one knows the long-term impact of microplastic on humans and aqualife as no studies have been done in India or abroad," said a marine expert.

An NGT expert said the biggest worry now is addressing thermocol pollution. Studies have shown thermocol sediments along with plastic on seabeds. Disintegrating plastic is changing its composition and getting settled in layers. It is mimicking plants, and fish are consuming it. Its biological and hormonal effect on humans and aqualife is still not known.

Experts said no studies have been done to know the quantity of micro-plastics in aqualife and how much of it is consumed by people daily. As per the United Nations Environment Programme report, there is around 199 million tonnes of plastic in the oceans. This would double by 2030 and triple by 2040. Plastic contributes 60% to the total marine debris. In 2006, the UNEP had estimated that 46,000 pieces of plastic are floating in Indian oceans.

"The chemical composition of plastic changes in saline water. Single-use plastics are still not recycled or collected 100%. They land in oceans and break down because of the saline water and sun. They dissolve in sea water and are consumed by aqualife which we eat. While samples are being taken to study the amount of microplastics in fish people eat, no study has been done on its effects on wild species, whether they would become extinct or their tolerance would change," said a senior marine expert from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

BIG PICTURE

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
June 5

THEME
Beat Plastic Pollution

WORLD OCEAN DAY
June 8

THEME
Planet Ocean
Tides are Changing

WHAT IS K-SHORE

Under the project, the state government departments, headed by the Karnataka Forest and Environment Department, will study the quantity and quality of plastic in the sea, and will also clear it. The project has been taken up for five years with the support of the World Bank. The World Bank has sanctioned Rs 840 crore and the detailed project report is being prepared. The forest department will be the nodal agency to execute the project by involving other stakeholders like municipal administrations and rural development and panchayat raj, tourism and fisheries departments, city corporations, Karnataka Biodiversity Board and experts.

"We all have seen plastic floating in the sea. But divers and experts have seen legacy plastic waste settled on seabeds and life gradually growing on it. To clear all the waste from the sea, this study was initially conceptualised and presented to the World Bank. They were thrilled and that is how it came into shape. It was sanctioned by the World Bank in January 2023. It was handed over to the forest department from the environment department in February 2023, and in March 2023 a meeting was held with the World Bank where they agreed to take it ahead," said a senior environment department officer.

While cleaning exercise is taken up at all beaches every day, it has been observed that after every high tide or low tide, plastic from the sea lands on the beach. This means there is a lot more waste than what is floating that needs to be cleaned.

Brijesh Kumar Dikshit, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Development, Karnataka Forest Department and project chairman, said the focus will be first on clearing floating plastic. Plastic shed areas are being created. These are areas drawn from the Arabian Sea, eastwards till the first hill slide ends. Here, rivers, streams, rivulets etc will be cleared and garbage will be stopped. The focus is first on coastal towns and Western Ghats.

WORKING BACKWARDS

The environment department has also asked city and rural municipal bodies to start managing their plastic waste effectively.

According to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), till 2022-23, Karnataka generated 2.96 lakh tonnes of plastic annually. Bengaluru generates 600 tonnes of plastic waste every day. According to private reports, a citizen contributes a minimum of 53 gm of plastic waste daily. Despite the ban on single-use plastic, large quantities of chips, biscuit packets, paper cups etc are used and disposed of unscientifically. As per plastic ban rules and National Green Tribunal orders, no plastic should reach landfills or bins, however that is not the case, said a senior KSPCB official.

As per reports, less than 20% is being sent to cement industries for incineration and the remaining is reaching landfills. "In 2016, Karnataka banned plastic and defined rules for its management. In 2022, the Centre brought in uniformity in rules for the entire country. Malls and large supermarkets have shifted to cloth bags, but issue continues with packed food items, manufacturing units not taking back plastic items and small vendors who cannot be penalised every day. Sending plastic waste to cement industries for incineration is one solution. The other is using it to make bitumen tarred roads. Though a small quantity is used in roads, it was still effective. But this is gradually reducing as the state government is focused on white topped roads where plastic cannot be used. If managed at the first stage, plastic waste entering water bodies and reaching the sea will also come down. But citizens should realise this," said the official.

EXAMPLES SHOW THE WAY

Some NGOs are already working to help reduce the flow of plastic or other waste into the ocean. In Andaman Islands, the Kachrewale Foundation is working with the Andaman Forest Department in clearing ocean waste.

Foundation founder Garima Poonia said that in the last 4-5 months, 1.6 tonnes of plastic waste was collected and it was found to be from 20 different countries. "We can tell where the waste is from and how old from the labels. Thermocol is also seen on beaches. We collect all the plastic and send it to the mainland for processing as there are no incinerators in the Andaman Islands," she said.

Sahaas, an NGO, has put up barricades along the drain in Udupi to stop the flow of trash into the Arabian Sea. Its CEO Archana Tripathi said that every day, around 100-200 kg of trash is stopped and collected.

Many NGOs are working on Gurupura, Netravathi and Phalguni rivers to stop the entry of waste into the ocean. With the help of RDPR department, women self-help groups are being roped in to segregate and send waste to processing units.

AQUALIFE BOUNCING BACK

Though there has been increasing sightings of aquatic wildlife, especially Olive Ridley turtles, whales, dolphins and other species on Indian coasts, there has been a concern over the health of aqualife.

Nestings of Olive Ridleys on Karnataka beaches have increased in Devbagh beach since 2003, while the sightings of dolphins and whales have gone up in Netrani. "Project SeaBird from Ankola to Karwar poses the biggest threat to turtle breeding. Similarly, glass buildings are no longer limited to Bengaluru, but are also increasingly being seen in coastal areas. The dilution of coastal regulation and eco-sensitive zones is also bad news," said a senior environment department official.

STUDY

"Long term studies and aggressive measures are needed. The era of creating awareness and the mentality that someone else will set rules and implement is over. The country's jurisdiction is limited to 12 nautical miles and the deep sea impact of pollution is still not addressed. It is not known how much plastic is floating and how old," said a MoEFCC official.

Experts said India is poor in its ocean study. Despite having over 7,517 km of coastline across nine states, studies are limited. "The dependency on oceans and seas is high. But the methods for its protection are limited. It is evident from the sightings of migratory and endemic species in the oceans," said a senior NGT official.

FRUITY CHILLS

As temperatures rise in Bengaluru, people drink fresh fruit juices to keep their bodies hydrated on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

7 held for cheating youth by promising BESCOM jobs

Bengaluru: The police busted a gang of seven for cheating unemployed youth by promising them jobs in BESCOM. They looted lakhs of rupees from them and issued them fake appointment orders. The incident was unearthed when an aspirant reported for work at the BESCOM office and discovered that no junior engineers were recruited by the company. The arrested accused are Praveen, Prajwal, Purushotham and Lohit, who are residents of Bengaluru, Shivaprasad Channannavar and Vijay Kumar from Belagavi, and Pradeep, from Tumakuru. The High Grounds police seized original marks cards of job aspirants, a laptop, printer, fake BESCOM seals, a car and Rs 5. 5 lakh cash from the accused.

PICKING CLUES

'King Kohli' helps police crack murder of home-alone octogenarian

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE words 'King Kohli' on the back of an autorickshaw has helped the Bengaluru police solve the recent murder of a 82-year-old home-alone woman reported under Mahalakshmi Layout police station limits. The woman, identified as Kamala, was found murdered at her residence in Nagapura on May 27.

The police stumbled upon this vital clue while going through the CCTV camera footage from the locations close to Kamala's house. The police found an autorickshaw — with the words 'King Kohli' written on its back — frequenting the locality for several days leading to the murder. On the day of the murder, the same auto was found near Kamala's residence — but this time with the words 'King Kohli' and the vehicle's registration number hidden using a tape.

The police have arrested Ashok (40), Anjanamurthy (33) and Siddaraju (34), all residents of Bengaluru, on charges of murdering Kamala. "Ashok is a plumber by profession. Three months ago, he went to Kamala's house to fix leaking pipes. Ashok realised that Kamala resided alone in the house and was in possession of gold jewels and cash. Ashok, along with Siddaraju and Anjanamurthy, hatched a plan to rob her as they were in debt and in need of money" the police said.

The trio visited Kamala's house on Anjanamurthy's auto to rob her. In the first attempt, they removed the auto's registration plate. They dropped the plan as the area was crowded. In the second attempt, they went to the house under the guise of requesting Kamala to rent the car shed to be used as a godown to store biscuits. They even gave her some biscuits and while she was eating them, Kamala was dragged, gagged and murdered, the police added.

On the day of the crime, the accused used tapes to hide the words 'King Kohli' and the number plate of the auto. "Along with this clue and other information we gathered during the investigation, our team launched a search for the accused who were caught near Mysuru," the police added.

Siddaraju, who works as a labourer, was into betting and was in huge debt, the police added. The trio are under police custody.

A traffic policeman tries to help a relative of the accident victim on Seshadri Road

KSRTC bus runs over woman at Anand Rao Circle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 55-year-old woman died on spot after a bus operated by Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ran over her near Anand Rao Circle on Sunday. The deceased Latha, a resident of Hebbal, and her husband were headed to Gandhinagar for shopping on their two-wheeler when the accident occurred. Latha was riding pillion.

A KSRTC bus hit their two-wheeler as they entered Seshadri Road. Owing to the impact, Latha, who fell down, came under the wheels of the bus.

While Latha's husband managed to escape with minor injuries, Latha is said to have succumbed to her injuries on the spot. Upparpet Traffic Police rushed to the spot and sent Latha's body for post-mortem. They have taken the KSRTC bus driver into custody.

DOCTORS BACK CENTRE'S BAN ON 14 COMBI DRUGS

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE Union ministry's ban on 14 fixed-dose combination drugs was welcomed by doctors here, saying the drugs are 'irrational combinations' causing unwanted side-effects.

Raj Vaidya, a community pharmacist, said nimesulide is a drug banned in several countries, but used extensively in India. "About 2-3 lakh branded drugs are circulating in the Indian market, and there is no proper data of the available fixed-dose drugs. Even doctors end up prescribing them without knowledge," he said.

In a notification issued on Friday, the central government banned the drugs citing 'no therapeutic justification' and possible 'risk' to peoples' health.

The banned drugs were primarily used for treating common ailments like fever, cold and cough, said Dr Rajath Athreya, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member and HoD (paediatrics and neonatology), at Sakra World Hospital.

Nimesulide, an anti-fever medicine, raised concerns as it can cause liver damage. Codeine cough syrup is addictive and is illogically consumed in India, and has a huge market size and Salbutamol Bromhexine can cause side effects if ingested orally, he added. Some of the banned drugs include Nimesulide Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Chlorpheniramine Maleate Codeine Syrup, Pholcodine Promethazine, Amoxicillin Bromhexine and Bromhexine Dextromethorphan Ammonium Chloride Menthol, Paracetamol Bromhexine Phenylephrine Chlorpheniramine Guaiphenesin and Salbutamol Bromhexine. Safety, efficacy, quality and cost need to be ensured while introducing any drug to the market.

> **About 2-3 lakh branded drugs are circulating in the Indian market, and there is no proper data of the available fixed-dose drugs. Even doctors end up prescribing them without knowledge**
> Raj Vaidya, a community pharmacist

The effectiveness of any drug is proven with clinical trials, however, there is lack of data regarding its safety while formulating fixed-dose combination drugs in India, pharmacists observed. In view of the recent controversies about made-in-India cough syrups, which led to the death of children in Gambia and Uzbekistan, doctors appreciated the ban and requested the government to ensure the ban is enforced well. They also advised people to avoid using fixed-dose combination drugs, apart from few rational combinations.

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Over 95% of the 695 passengers from Andhra Pradesh travelling in the ill-fated Howrah-Chennai Coromandel Superfast Express and Yesvantpur-Howrah Superfast Express have escaped the accident, State education minister Botcha Satyanarayana announced on Sunday.

(left) A man searches for the body of his relative who was killed in the horrific railway accident, at a hospital in Balasore, Odisha, on Sunday. People searching for their relatives check photos of victims displayed at a makeshift morgue at NOCCI Business Park in Balasore | DEBADATTA MALLICK

IN BODY BAGS AND PHOTOS, THEY LOOK FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

Bodies moved to hospitals, even a biz park, as Herculean task of identifying the dead begins

SUDARSAN MAHARANA
@ Bahanaga (Odisha)

MOHAMMED Rafiq is in tears. He came all the way from Kisanganj (in Bihar) looking for his brother Anjar Ul-Haq's body. Here he had to go through over a dozen body bags kept at North Orissa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NOCCI) business park premises where a temporary mortuary has been created. In vain, though.

Rafiq's ordeal did not end as he was directed to a huge set of photographs kept at the hall. The pictures are unimaginably gory. Some have no skulls, many are defaced; others have their limbs severed.

Thirty-six hours after the deadly Bahanaga train accident, grief has been overtaken by anguish, anger and frustration as family members and relatives have photographs of hundreds of mutilated bodies to browse through. The trauma of finding the mortal remains of a loved one is something many may never get over in their lives.

"I visited Balasore and Soro hospitals and also searched photographs of the victims here and but have not been able to get details of Anjar. A person who collected a work book at the accident site called Anjar's employer who informed us about his death. I don't know what to do now," said an emotional Rafiq. He recalls after the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express entered Odisha at about 4 pm on Friday, Anjar called them saying he will reach Kisanganj by Saturday morning.

After the government shifted bodies of the dead from Bahanaga High School and hospitals to NOCCI business park premises, kin of the deceased as well as missing passengers have flooded the facility.

Some managed to collect the mortal remains that had started to decompose, while others, numb in pain, stood clueless as they scanned through the photos of the defaced dead bodies.

Around 172 bodies were kept preserved at the facility for a night and shifted gradually to Bhubaneswar after the RPF and emergency cell took photos of the unidentified bodies and put them on display on a table for the people to identify them.

The administration also put up a projector on the premises for screening the photos for easy identification. Baring a dozen of bodies, rest were sent to AIIMS, SUM, KIMS, Capital Hospital and Hi-tech in Bhubaneswar which have proper preservation facility, said additional tehsildar of Jaleswar, Amlan Nayak, posted at the emergency unit at NOCCI.

Ajmar, from West Bengal, searching for the body of this nephew, said he was told at Soro hospital to wait at NOCCI. "I identified his photo but his body is yet to be handed over to me. I will not leave the place without him," he said.

Minister Lad meets injured in Cuttack hospital

BENGALURU: Seventeen artistes from Karnataka, who were stranded in Odisha following the horrific train accident, are expected to return to Bengaluru. The artistes were in Odisha to particiapte in the Folk Fair 2023 and were left stranded in Puri. According to State Labour Minister Santosh Lad, who is heading the team, flight tickets were booked for the artistes for Sunday night. Meanwhile, Lad also visited SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack were the injured are admitted. In a meeting with the Odisha Chief Secretary, Lad said that Karnataka was heartbroken due to the tragic loss of life in the accident and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Toll revised down to 275; 88 bodies identified

The Odisha government revised the train accident's toll to 275 from 288, and put the number of injuries at 1,175. Chief secretary PK Jena said this is because some bodies were counted twice — at the accident spot and then again at the hospital. Jena said 88 bodies have been identified and 78 handed over to their kin

Tribals turned first responders, saved 200

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT @ Bahanaga

PHULAMANI Hembrum was cooking in her courtyard when she heard a big bang on Friday evening. She stepped out to find a cloud of smoke engulfing the railway tracks, about 200 metres from her house. And then the area plunged into darkness. Before she could realise what happened, she heard screams. Phulamani and her husband Raghu ran towards the site and what they saw left them numbed.

"For the first time in my life, I saw so many dead people. The bodies were soaked in blood. There were dismembered body parts strewn across. I gathered courage and ran towards a derailed coach where a little girl was hanging from the window. She had injuries all over her body. Her mother managed to get out. I took them to my house, gave them water," said the 30-year-old tribal woman who rescued six children.

The Hembrum couple did not stop there. They went on to rescue another 30 passengers and even arranged transport for hospitals. Before rescue teams could arrive, around 58 tribals of two hamlets — Krushnapur and Kamaripur — were among the first responders who utilised their resources to save the lives of passengers of the ill-fated Coromandel Express that was involved in one of the country's deadliest rail disasters at Bahanaga Bazar Station.

They rescued over 200 passengers and retrieved dead bodies from damaged coaches. Soon teams of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force, fire services and National Disaster Response Force arrived at the site.

Maheswar Kisku, another tribal, recalls removing mutilated bodies. "I climbed on the overturned coaches and pulled out dead bodies which were missing hands and legs. The scene was so horrific, it replays in front of my eyes even after two days of the incident," he said. The tribal families were lucky the derailed coaches did not hit their houses which are barely 200 metres from the site. "Anything was possible but we were lucky," said his wife Manjulata.

Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Dharmendra Pradhan at the accident site at Bahanaga Bazar, in Balasore, Odisha, on Sunday | PTI

CRACK NOTICED ON BASE OF COACH IN TN

Tenkasi: A major train accident was averted on Sunday as the railway staff in good time noticed a huge crack on the base of a coach above the wheel on Kollam Junction-Chennai Egmore Express (16102) train in Shengottai. After the damage was reported around 3 pm, the particular coach (S3) detached from the train. Following a one-and-a-half-hour delay, the train left for Madurai Junction, where another coach was attached to the train in place of the S3 coach. Speaking to TNIE, a railway official said the passengers of S3 coach were asked to travel in another coach from Shengottai to Madurai. "If the crack had gone unnoticed, our country would have witnessed another serious train tragedy in the same week," said a railway worker.

793 INJURED DISCHARGED: PATNAIK

Bhubaneswar: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Sunday briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the latest situation of the train mishap at Bahanaga Bazar, particularly on treatment of the injured. Patnaik also announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh for the kin of the deceased who hailed from Odisha and ₹1 lakh for the seriously injured from the state. Stating that the Odisha government follows a policy which underlines 'every life is precious', Patnaik said that his government is leaving no stone unturned to save lives. He said of the 1,175 injured passengers, 793 have been discharged.

PTI

MAIN LINE TRACKS REPAIRED

Two days after one of India's worst train accidents at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha's Balasore district, two railway tracks have been made fit to carry trains after bulldozers and cranes removed capsized coaches on the main trunk line connecting eastern and southern India. The government on Sunday said both the Up and Down railway tracks at Balasore accident site have been repaired. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted that track linking Up-line has been restored and overhead electrification work has also started. "Track linking of Up-line has been done at 16.45 hours. Overhead electrification work started," Vaishnaw tweeted on Sunday

All 127 TN pax safe, AC coach a factor?

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

ALL 127 passengers identified as hailing from Tamil Nadu, who were affected by Friday's three-train pile-up, are safe and accounted for TN sports minister, Udhayanidhi Stalin, said in Chennai on Sunday on returning from his visit to Odisha. Udhayanidhi, transport minister SS Sivasankar and three IAS officers had visited the state to help coordinate rescue efforts.

The news sparked the question on how TN passengers escaped largely unharmed from one of the worst train accidents in the country's history.

Of the 787 passengers who boarded the Coromandel Express for Chennai (from Shalimar (525), Kharagpur (199), and Balasore (63) stations), the state government identified 127 as TN residents based on their names and residential addresses. All of them are safe and only one is being treated at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.

A key factor behind their escape, industry sources suggested, is the preference of TN passengers for travelling in AC coaches. The AC coaches sustained less damage compared to the sleeper and general class coaches of the train during the accident. "Over the past 18 months, ticket demand on the Howrah-Chennai route has increased significantly, leading to an influx of unreserved passengers in reserved sleeper coaches. As a result, many tend to choose AC coaches, which may have contributed to their higher survival rate," said K Baskar, former member of the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Chennai.

Health workers check an injured survivor of the Coromandel Express accident on her arrival in Chennai on Sunday | P RAVIKUMAR

Throw Cong into Bay of Bengal: KCR

S RAJA REDDY @ Nirmal

CALLING upon the people to throw the grand old party into the Bay of Bengal for its remarks on scrapping the Dharani portal, Telangana Chief Minister **K Chandrasekhar Rao** said that if the Congress was voted to power it would discontinue the Rythu Bandhu and Dalit Bandhu schemes.

Addressing a public meeting at Nirmal on Sunday after inaugurating the Integrated Collectorate Complex, the CM asked whether the people wanted to scrap the State government's integrated land records management system. "Congress leaders are saying that the Dharani portal will be thrown into the Bay of Bengal if the party is voted to power. Tell me, do you want the Dharani portal, which has made your work easier without the involvement of middlemen, or not," he asked.

When the crowd voiced their opposition to such a move, Rao said, "Then throw the Congress into the Bay of Bengal which vows to throw the Dharani portal into the sea."

PRAYER TIME

Devotees gather at the Lord Jagannath Temple for the Snan Purnima rituals of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra, in Puri, Odisha, on Sunday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Heatstroke claims life of 8-yr-old boy in TS

Jangaon: An eight-year-old boy succumbed to heatstroke on Sunday at Palakurthy. The victim was identified as G Vikram. On Saturday, a relative of Vikram's passed away. His parents attended a 10-day function while their son played outside the house and had lunch at the function. He returned home on Saturday evening but began complaining about being nauseous. Later, Renuka and Shobhan took him to the Palakurthy PHC. After assessing his condition, the doctors at PHC referred Vikram to MGM Hospital in Warangal for further treatment. Unfortunately, the boy deteriorated during the journey, and passed away. ENS

Monsoon winds fail to touch Kerala

UNNIKRISHNAN S @ T'Puram

THE arrival of the southwest monsoon to the Indian mainland has been delayed further, signalling a weak start for the rainy season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), which had earlier forecast June 4 as the likely onset date, anticipates a further delay of three to four days.

Despite bringing rain to the Arabian Sea, the monsoon winds have failed to touch Kerala, leaving weather experts concerned about a delayed onset. Satellite images have revealed the presence of clouds conducive to rainfall over the Arabian Sea, but their impact on the mainland has been minimal thus far.

While the monsoon has successfully reached Lakshadweep, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, the development of a cyclonic system in the Arabian Sea has impeded the progress of the crucial westerly winds towards Kerala.

"Conditions (are) becoming favourable with the increase in westerly winds over the south Arabian Sea. Also, the depth of westerly winds is gradually increasing and today (June 4), the depth of westerlies has reached up to 2.1 km above the mean sea level," the IMD said in a statement. "The cloud mass over the southeast Arabian Sea is also increasing. We expect that these favourable conditions for monsoon onset over Kerala will further improve during the next three-four days." IMD is expected to provide the updates on Monday.

The IMD has officially announced the formation of a cyclonic circulation over the Arabian Sea by June 5, anticipating the subsequent development of a low-pressure area within the following 48 hours. However, private weather forecaster Skymet predicted that the weather system is more likely to take shape on June 6 or 7, progressing into a depression. This looming weather system is expected to hamper the flow of south-westerly winds not only to Kerala but also over neighboring regions such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Rayalaseema, potentially leading to inadequate rainfall in these areas.

Year	Actual Onset Date	Forecast Onset Date
2018	May 29	May 29
2019	June 8	June 6
2020	June	1 June 5
2021	June 3	May 31
2022	May 29	May 27

Baby born with rare case of collodion disorder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A baby boy with tight, waxy and parchment-like skin, suffering from a rare collodion disorder, was born at a Bengaluru hospital and survived after receiving intensive treatment for nearly four weeks.

"He faced several challenges as the body was enclosed in a thick membrane, leading to abnormalities, like inability to close the eyelids, and an outward-turning upper lip. The skin resembled a plastic wrap, and the dry itchy skin gave the baby a rubber-like look," Dr Harini Sreedhan, consultant (paediatrics and neonatology) at Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, Narayana Health, said. The condition posed difficulty for the mother to feed the baby and it also exposed the infant to risk of infections, respiratory distress and electrolyte imbalance. He was kept in the ICU for four weeks, during which collective support of dermatologists, ophthalmologists and neonatologists helped the baby survive.

The incidence of collodion baby is estimated to be 1 in 3 lakh and are usually born preterm. The collodion membrane peels off over time. However, only one-tenth of the patients develop normal underlying skin later, according to a National Institutes of Health report. Doctors observed that a 53 per cent mortality rate is witnessed for such complex cases globally.

"In another case, a pre-term baby was born in the 25th week, barely weighing 600 gm, and suffering from respiratory distress and underdeveloped kidneys. It largely relied on minimal oxygen support and was also kept in the ICU," Dr Sreedaran said. Over time, the baby gained weight and transitioned to oral feeding as well.

In both pre-term cases, the chances of survival were minimal. Doctors attributed the success of the treatments to the intensive care support provided at the hospital.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby notified that our client Sri. Naveen Babu Rao is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri. Murali Krishna and he is intending to mortgage the schedule property in Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited.

If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within seven days from today, along with relevant documents, failing which it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

SCHEDULE :

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.11, Property No.1/1, BBMP Katha No.1/1/11, Situated at Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently coming under BBMP, Ward No.189, measuring East to West:40ft, North to South:30ft, in all measuring 1200sqft., and bounded on the:

East by Road, West by Property belongs to Sangeetha and Private property, North by Site No.12, South by Site No.10.

V.L. Associates
Advocates
No.56, Out house, 19th Main Road,
2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Ph: 9481900851/9743323668.

Place: Bangalore Date: 02.06.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **SRI.DEEPAK.B.S** S/o late Shivashankar.B.S and his wife **SMT.KALPANA.B.S**, residing at No.186, 2nd Cross, 1st Layout, C.H.B.S.Layout, Govindaraja Nagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.9 (old No.381/9, earlier to that site No.30), PID No.5-64-9, measuring East to West 45ft and North to South 30ft, in all measuring 1350 Sq.ft, situated at 11th Cross, S.P.Extension, Sudeendra Nagar, Malleshwaram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : 11th Cross
West by : House/site bearing No.31
North by : House/Site bearing No.29
South by : 9th Main Road

Sd/- PRAVEEN KUMAR.I
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004

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श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./e- Tender Notice No:- SHAR / CMD / E / G 2387207 / 2023-24 तिथि/ Date. 01.06.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **"132 केवी श्रीहरिकोटा मास्टर सबस्टेशन के लिए विद्युत कार्य –पैकेज IV (यूजी केबल की बिछाने और अन्य संबंधित कार्य)"** (अनुमानित लागतः **₹ 245.53 लाख**) के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **27-06-2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Electrical works for 132 kV Sriharikota Master Substation Package IV (laying of UG cables and other associated works)" (Estimated cost: ₹ 245.53 Lakhs)**. Tender documents can be downloaded up to **27-06-2023, 14:30 hrs**. Interested tenderer may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Repco Home Finance

PEENYA BRANCH : No. 42, First Floor Dasarahalli, Hesaraghata Main Road, Opp to Patidar samaj Choutry, Bangalore – 560 073

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being Authorised Officer of **Repco Home Finance Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** dated **12-03-2020** calling upon the **Borrower: Mr. S. Dinesh Kumar,** S/o, Sarwalal Soni, No. 48, Narasimhaswamy Layout, Laggere, Bangalore - 560 058, **Co-Borrower: Mrs. Bhagavathi Devi Soni,** W/o, S. Dinesh Kumar, No. 48, Narasimhaswamy Layout, Laggere, Bangalore - 560 058, **Guarantor: Mrs. D. Jaya Lakshmi,** No. 270, Laggere, 4th Cross, 1st Main, Laggere, Bangalore - 560 058, **Also at:** D.No. 20/1, 15th Cross, JC Nagar, Kuruburahalli, Bangalore - 560 086 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice vide **Loan Account No. 2121890000433** being **Rs.66,88,569/-** with further interest from **06-03-2020** onwards and other costs thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The **Borrower, Co-Borrower** and the Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, co-borrower, guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **29th Day of May 2023.**

The Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Repco Home Finance Limited,** No. 42, First Floor Dasarahalli, Hesaraghata Main Road, Opp to Patidar samaj Choutry, Bangalore – 560 073 vide **Loan Account No. 2121890000433** for an amount of **Rs.1,10,55,272/-** with further interest from **15-05-2023** onwards and other costs thereon.

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at anytime before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No. 12 & 13, formed in Assessment No. 53/2, Ward No. 40, situated at Andhrahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) measuring East to West 60 feet, North to South 54 feet, totally measuring 3240 Sq.ft., and bounded on: East by : Site No. 11, West by : Site No. 14, North by:Private Property, South by : Road.

Date: 29-05-2023
Authorised Officer,
Repco Home Finance Ltd.

SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND MEDIA ANALYSIS SERVICES FOR WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS

The Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway for and on behalf of President of India invites Applications from the interested agencies from the open market on prescribed Application Form **WR-HQ0PR(PRSM)/2/2023 Dated: 02/06/2023** for the following services/work: -

Full Name of Service/Work	SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND MEDIA ANALYSIS SERVICES FOR WESTERN RAILWAY **(FOR TWO YEARS)**
Appx. Total Cost of Service/Work (Exclusive of GST)	**Rs.3,56,10,000/-** Exclusive of GST (Rs. Three Crore Fifty Six Lakhs Ten Thousand Only) per annum; or **Rs.7,12,20,000/-** Exclusive of GST (Rs. Seven Crore Twelve Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only) for two years.
Appx Total Cost of Service/ Work (with GST)	**Rs.8,40,39,600/-**with GST (Rs. Eight Crore Forty Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Only) for two years.
Earnest Money Amount	**Rs.5,70,200/-** (Rs. Five Lakhs Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Only)
Cost of Application Form	**Rs. 10,000/- + 18% GST = Rs.11,800/- (Non-Refundable) (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) in cash across the Railway Counter or if downloaded from website - Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Principal Financial Advisor, Western Railway, Churchgate, Mumbai (In case if Application Form is required by Post - Rs. 500/- will be charged extra)**
Last Date of downloading Application Form from WR's official Website/ purchase from PR Office	**Up to 12.00 hrs. on 06-07-2023**
Last Date/Time of submission of Application	**Up to 12.30 hrs. 06-07-2023**
Date & Time of Opening of Applications	**On 06-07-2023 at 12.35 hrs. onwards**
Venue for Application Submission and Application opening	CPRO Office, 3rd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Western Railway Headquarters, Mumbai – 400020.
Particulars of the Website from where the Application Form Procedure of Selection and Terms & Conditions etc. may be downloaded	**www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in**

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TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the Tender specification No.e-EHVT-26/2023 for Construction of 400/132kV AIS at Ainavilli and connected transmission network in Dr.B.R.Ambedhar Konaseema District". Tenders will be available in **https://www.apeprocurement.gov.in** from 05-06-2023 at 15:00 Hrs. Ph.No.**0866-2429232,** Extn. : 2061/2051.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Projects, AP Transco, Vijayawada

DIPR No.2128PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 02/06/2023

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿಗಾರರಾದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಮಲ್ಲತಾಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಪಾಪರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಪಾಳ್ಯ, ನಂ 157ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಎಸ್ ಇವರ ಹೆಂಡತಿ, ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಗೀತಾ ಸಿ. ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ.

ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿಗಾರರು ಬ್ರಹ್ಮಾವರ ತಾಲೂಕು, ಉಪ್ಪೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬ್ರ 94/38ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಂಜ 10 ಸೆಂಟ್ಸು ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬ್ರ 94/26ಎ1ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಂಜ 10 ಸೆಂಟ್ಸು ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯವರಿಸಿ ಸ್ವಂತ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಹೊಂದಿ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪ, ತಕರಾರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ದಿನದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನದೊಳಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಕೂಡಲೇ ತಿಳಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿನಂತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಕರಾರಿಗೆ ಆಸ್ಪದವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಉಡುಪಿ
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2023

ವಿಲ್ಫ್ರೆಡ್ ಓಸ್ವಲ್ಡ್ ಡಿ'ಮೆಲ್ಲೊ
ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಟರಿ
1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಮಾಂಡವಿ ಕೋರ್ಟ್,
ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್ ಎದುರು,
ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ರೋಡ್, ಉಡುಪಿ-576101.
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂಬ್ರ: 9845474976.
ಈಮೇಲ್: wodmoodubelle@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **POORNIMA RAMESH,** W/o Ramesh.N.R & D/o Punyamurthula Prasad Rao, R/at No. 2910, 14th A Cross, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070, have changed my name from **POORNIMA PRASAD RAO** to **POORNIMA RAMESH**. Vide affidavit dated: 30-5-2023, sworn before Notary Mohammed Hussain.K, Bangalore.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-04(A)/23-24 Dt:02.06.2023

"Repairs to RCC elements of residential quarters from C2-001 to C2- 450 at PCN colony, Sullurpeta" (T/C-23-015, Est. cost ₹ 97.91 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 16.06.2023**. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA

QCI Creating an Ecosystem for Quality
Institution of Engineers Building, 2- Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002, India

Corrigendum for Walk in Interview scheduled on **7th and 8th June , 2023** for **Law graduates** at **Chennai** (T.I. School, No. 1& 2, Madras Thiruvallur High Rd, Tiruvenkandam Nagar, Ambattur Chennai - 600053). Revised Age criteria is as follows:

Position	Max. Age Limit
Associate Manager	45 years
Analyst –I, Analyst –II , Analyst –III	40 years

Interested candidates are requested to register themselves: **https://forms.gle/RHWCWUwMhBft28Gt6** (optional)

Those already registered need not to register again

For details please login at **ppidpmu.qcin.org**
For any query please write to us on **qcipmu@gmail.com**
SPOC for the same is Ms. Akanksha

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: **The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002. (SARFAESI ACT)

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.,** has taken over **Physical Possession** of the schedule property under the SARFAESI Act. The Authorized Officer of **M/s. Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.,** had already conducted multiple public auctions for selling the property, but they turned out to be unsuccessful as no bids were received. Hence please be informed that if the total outstanding dues in the aforesaid loan account are not paid within **Fifteen (15) Days** from the date of this publication of this notice, then the Authorized officer will proceed for sale via private treaty of the property as stated below.

Public at large is informed that the secured property as mentioned in the Schedule are available for sale through Private Treaty, as per the terms agreeable to the Bank for realization of Bank's dues on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

Standard terms & conditions for sale of property through Private Treaty are as under:

1. Sale through Private Treaty will be on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**
2. The purchaser will be required to deposit **25%** of the sale consideration on the next working day of receipt of Bank's acceptance of offer for purchase of property and the remaining amount within **15 days** thereafter.
3. The purchaser has to deposit 10% of the offered amount along with application which will be adjusted against 25% of the deposit to be made as per clause (2) above.
4. Failure to remit the amount as required under clause (2) above, will cause forfeiture of amount already paid including 10% of the amount paid along with application.
5. In case of non-acceptance of offer of purchase by the Bank, the amount of 10% paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest.
6. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date.
7. The Bank reserves the right to reject any offer of purchase without assigning any reason.
8. In case of more than one offer, the Bank will accept the highest offer.
9. The interested parties may contact the Authorized Officer for further details/ clarifications and for submitting their application.
10. The purchaser has to bear all stamp duty, registration fee, and other expenses, taxes, duties, society dues in respect of purchase of the property.
11. Sale shall be in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act/ Rules.

SCHEDULE

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-borrowers	Amount as per 13(2) Demand Notice under SARFAESI Act.	Reserve price for private treaty	Description of Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties
1	32519440000090 & 32519670000140	1) Mrs. Ammaiah J, 2) Mr. Jayanna C, 3) Ammaiah Pro Uma Fashions	**Rs.8,33,709.09** (Rupees Eight lakh Thirty Three thousand Seven Hundred and Nine and Paisa Nine Only) **& Rs.1,24,331.00** (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Four thousand Three Hundred and Thirty One Only) **as of 10.06.2022**	Rs. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Only)	**Details of Secured Assets:** All that piece and parcel of bearing the Site No.237, House No.1330/2, Situated at Muneswarswamy, Temple Street, Reddypalya, Vibhuthipura Dhakle, Krishnarajpura, Hobali, Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes Under the BBMP Limits. **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property Belongs to Venkataiah, **South by:** Road. **Measuring:** East to West 25Feet, North to South 16 Feet.

The aforesaid Borrower's/ Co-borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of SARFAESI Act for redemption of secured assets mentioned hereinabove by tendering the aforementioned outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the bank before the sale of secured assets.

Correspondence Address: Mr. B Sreejith (Mob No.8050149617), email: babu.sreejith@janabank.com, Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249), email: ranjan.naik@janabank.com. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, (formerly known as M/s. Janalakshmi Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.), having Office The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071

Date: 05.06.2023, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

BROADWAY BRANCH

120/168, Prakasam Salai, Chennai-600 108
Ph: 044 2523 3016
Email: cb1374@canarabank.com

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Demand Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Through Paper Publication

To,

Borrowers: 1.M/s. Invento Makerspaces Pvt Ltd., 279, 2nd Floor, 16th Cross, 5th Main Road, Sector 6, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka-560102.

2.Mrs.R.Mahalakshmi, W/o.Balaji Vishwanathan, **3.Mr.Balaji Vishwanathan,** S/o.Vishwanathan and **4.Mr.Radhakrishnan Subramanian,** S/o.Subramanian, **All at :** 70, Rajendra Prasad Road, Nehru Nagar, Chromepet, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu-600044.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Broadway Branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s. Invento Makerspaces Pvt Ltd** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in **Schedule B** hereunder.

Schedule-A: Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower

Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1374261010459	MSME OD/OCC	07.03.2019	Rs.1,28,00,000/-

the above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank hsa classified the debts as **NPA on 29.01.2023.** Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of the Borrowers towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs.1,30,59,377.67 (Rupees One crore thirty lakhs fifty nine thousand three hundred and seventy seven and sixty seven paise only)** with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Whereas the demand notice sent to you by regd. post / courier.

Schedule-B: (Details of security assets):

Name of Title holder : Smt.R.Mahalakshmi.

All that piece and parcel of **house site bearing Plot No.51,** comprised in Survey No. 20/2 in **Pozchichiur Village, TambaramTaluk, Kancheepuram District measuring an extent of 2314 sqft** and being bounded on the North by :Vacant land, South by : 24 feet wide road, East by : Plot No.52, West by :Vacant land bearing Plot No.50. Situated within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Pammal.

Schedule-C: Details of liability as on date

Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Liability With Interest as on date	Rate of Interest
1374261010459	MSME OD/OCC	Rs.1,30,59,377.67	12.25% p.a + 2% penal interest

Date : 03.02.2023 Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.82,54,216/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Sixteen only)** as on **01-06-2023** together with further interest to be charged from **02-06-2023** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha, 2nd Block, Yarab Nagara Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. Also at, Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha, Nidagatta Village, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District, Ramanagara - 571433. No.2) Mrs. Ruksana Banu, W/o. Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, 2nd Block, Yarab Nagara, Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. Also at, Mrs. Ruksana Banu, W/o. Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, Nidagatta Village, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District, Ramanagara - 571433.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property Bearing Khatha No.309/55/115/21, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet. Totally measuring 1,500 Sq.ft., Situated at Ward No.22, Kothipura, Ramanagara. Alongwith Superstructure putup thereon. Bounded on:- East by - 15 feet Road, West by - Property of Patel Venkatappa, North by - Site No.19, South by - Site No.23.

Reserve Price : Rs.33,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Three Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha)

All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing Khatha No.311/57/117/23, PID No.22-4-532-479, measuring East to West 15.240030 meters or 50 feet and North to South 9.144018 Meters or 30 feet Situated at Ward No.22, Kothipura 1st Stage, Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District. Bounded on:- East by - Road, West by - Property of Patel Venkatappa, North by - Site No.21, South by - Site No.25.

Reserve Price : Rs.15,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifteen Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
21-06-2023	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch,** B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No. 080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **02.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 03-06-2023 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Register Office : No.27-BKC, C-27, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051, Maharashtra, India.
Basavangudi Branch : No.60, Gandhi Bazar Main Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the **Kotak Bank Ltd. ("the Secured Creditor"),** the Possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the secured creditor on **04/08/2022**, will be sold by way of e-auction on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and 'No recourse"** basis on **23rd June 2023** for recovery of **Rs.1,10,01,087/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakhs One Thousand Eighty Seven only) as on 30.05.2023** together with further interests, costs, charges and expenses thereon with effect from **31/05/2023** due to the secured creditor from **M/s. Lotus Medicare services Pvt Ltd and Others.**

The detail regarding the description of properties, reserve price (below which the properties will not be sold) and the earnest money deposit are more particularly stated in the table below.

Description of the Properties put for sale :	1) Reserve Price (in Rupees) & 2) EMD (in Rupees)
All that piece and parcel of Non-agricultural immovable property being residentially converted Site bearing No.28 (Half portion), formed in Survey No.58 of Jarakabande Kaval Village, Ramachandrapura Municipal/Village M.S. Palya, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now bearing BBMP PID No.011-W0112-41, situated at M.S. Palya Teachers layout, vidyaranayapura Post, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 55 feet, in measuring a total of 1,650 Square feet. **Owned by Mrs. Krishna Priya w/o Kothandapani Ravikumar** and Boundary of the property:- **East by :** Site bearing No.29, **West by:** Remaining portion of Site bearing No.28, **North by :** Road and **South by :** Private Property. Together with existing buildings and structures thereon and buildings and structures as may be erected/constructed there upon any time from/after the dare of respective mortgage and all additions thereto and all fixtures and furniture's and plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future.	**1) Rs.83,00,000/- (Rupees: Eighty Three Lakhs only) 2) Rs.8,30,000/- (Rupees: Eight Lakhs Thirty Thousand only)**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BY WAY OF E-AUCTION:-

Inspection of the properties: Interested parties may inspect the properties on **22/06/2023 between 11 AM to 3 PM.** Last Date and Time of Submitting EMD : **22/06/2023 up to 5 PM.**

1. The Auction Sale will be "Online E-Auction / Bidding" through KMBL's approved service provider, M/s Auction tiger having its Office at Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 380006 , help line nos .Mr.Praveen Kumar :7961200515/9722778828, and also help line mail id sales@AuctionTiger.net at the web portal www.AuctionTiger.net.
2. The auction sale will be held on **23rd June 2023 between 11 AM to 12 PM** with auto-extensions for 5 (five) minutes in case bid is placed in the last five minutes before the appointed closing time.
3. The Bid price to be submitted shall be above the reserve price fixed by the Authorized Officer ("AO") and bidder shall further improve their offer in multiple of **INR. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)** for property mentioned.
4. The properties will not be sold below the reserve price set by the AO. The Bid quoted below the reserve price shall be rejected and the EMD deposited shall be forfeited.
5. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money) already paid within 24 hours of the closure of the E-Auction sale proceedings. The Balance 75% of the purchase price shall have to be paid within 15 (fifteen) days of the confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the AO, failing which the bank shall forfeit amounts already paid/deposited by the purchaser. In case Highest bidder not paid statutory amount of 25% within 24 hours his bid will be cancelled and next highest bidder will be offered to purchase the property.
6. Bidders are advice to visit the said website link of bank website for Bid forms and detailed terms and condition of the sale before submitting their bids and participating in the proceedings.
7. Bids shall be submitted online/physical form only in the prescribed format(s) with relevant details duly filled in. Bids submitted in any other format/incomplete bids are liable to be rejected.
8. All Bid forms shall be accompanied by copies of following KYC documents viz (i) PAN card (ii) Aadhar card/passport (iii) Current Address proof (iv) valid e-mail Id (v) Contact number/s (mobile/landline), etc. Scanned copies of said documents shall be submitted to the email ID stated above. Earnest money Deposit (EMD) as mentioned against each property described in the accompanying Sale Notice shall be deposited through DD favoring **'KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD", PAYABLE AT BANGALORE.**
9. The intending bidder should submit a proof of deposit of EMD to the bank in a format as may be acceptable to the Bank.
10. The Bidders should hold the valid e-mail id as all the relevant information from secured creditor/the service provider may be conveyed through email only.
11. Prospective intending bidders may contact the service provider on the detail mentioned above to avail online/in-person training on participating in the e-auction.
12. However, neither the Authorized Officer nor the secured creditor or service provider shall be responsible for any technical lapses/power failure, etc.
13. The EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned within 7 working days from the date of closure of e-auction proceedings.
14. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. If the borrower/guarantors(s) pay the entire amount due to the secured creditor before the appointed date and time of e-auction, no sale will be conducted.
15. To the best of knowledge and information of AO, no other encumbrances exist on the aforesaid properties, however prospective tenders are advised to do their own due diligence and conduct independent enquiries in regard to the title/encumbrances, etc.The AO shall not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, property tax or any other dues to the Government and anybody in respect to the aforesaid mortgage property. Other than The properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the secured creditor.
16. The AO has the right to reject any tender/tenders (for either of the property) or even may cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
17. On compliance of terms of sale, AO shall issue a 'certificate of sale' in favor of the purchaser. All expenses relating to stamp duty, registration charges, conveyance, VAT, TDS, GST etc. shall be borne by the purchaser.
18.CONDITIONS FOR TDS DEDUCTION
A.TDS to be deducted 1% of Auction Price.
B.TDS shall be deducted and deposited in the name of the Mortgagor/s.
C.If the mortgaged property is jointly owned, the TDS shall be reported in the name of the first owner, unless there is a specific ratio of ownership in the sale deed, in which case the TDS shall be deducted in the proportion of their ownership ratio.
D.Auction Purchaser, after depositing TDS, shall submit Form No 16A as proof of TDS payment and confirmation.
19. The sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the condition mentioned above.
20. For any further information on the auction, including inspection of the properties, the intended tenders may verify the banks website @WWW.Kotak.com or contact **Mr.Sreedhara S on Ph#9916165915 between 10 am to 5 pm** on all working days.

Date : 05.06.2023
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

QuoteExpress
WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS › GORDON B HINCKLEY

EDITORIAL

"There is a price to pay for speaking the truth. There is a bigger price for living a lie" — Cornel West

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RAILWAY EXPANSION AND SAFETY UPGRADE MUST BE IN CONSONANCE

FORTY-EIGHT hours have passed, but India is yet to come to terms with the catastrophic three-train crash at Bahanaga Bazar Station in Odisha's Balasore district. So far, 275 lives have been lost and over 1,100 injured in one of the deadliest rail mishaps the country has seen. The scale of the disaster was such that Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew down to ground zero to take stock of the situation, and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stayed put at the site overseeing all rescue and restoration operations. While the preliminary investigation pointed at a combination of technical and human error over the signal and line locking system, the Railway Board on Sunday evening went ahead and recommended a CBI probe into the mishap, adding a curious turn to the cause of the mishap.

However, an accident of this magnitude and consequence has raised serious questions about the country's railway infrastructure and safety. Railway modernisation has been a major thrust of the Modi government, with dreams of bullet trains running on the country's tracks. The much-touted semi-high speed Vande Bharat expresses are being launched across the country as a precursor. Stations are being redeveloped into world-class airport-like facilities. The Ministry of Railway this year was handed the highest-ever outlay of ₹2.4 lakh crore that focused on massive network expansion, new trains and technology upgrade. However, the monumental tragedy of Friday has thrown a spanner to the hype and should force the government to get back to the drawing board to address the most pressing issue – safety. A recent CAG report found glaring holes in this aspect. It pointed out inadequate resource deployment to Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh. Besides, implementing safety mechanisms in consonance with the aggressive expansion spree has been a concern. Even though the Railway has developed anti-collision devices like KAVACH, its installation has not been up to the mark. It will be unfair to ignore that the rate of railway accidents has gone down significantly in the past decade. There has been a massive improvement in rail services too. But, one of the world's largest railway networks spanning a staggering 65,000 km, plied by over 21,000-odd trains which transport 1.3 crore people daily and over 1400 million tonnes of freight annually, clearly needs fundamental bottom-up upgradation. A mishap of this nature cannot be condoned in this era. Bahanaga should be an eye-opener.

LAW BODY REVIVES DEBATE ON SEDITION LEGISLATION

FOR a government sitting on the fence amid intense pressure to send the colonial sedition law to the shredder, the 22nd Law Commission of India's recent suggestion to retain it with amendments could possibly have resonated with its thought process. It's a given that no party with robust nationalism as the cornerstone of its ideological fount can be lenient to anti-national activities. The problem, though, is in how the law is enforced. There are documented instances of its rampant abuse by going after critics like activists, students, journalists, stand-up comedians and protesters for the flimsiest reasons. Should someone who, say, exults if Pakistan wins a sporting event be jailed or won over through affirmative action? According to an estimate, about 80 sedition cases were filed annually from 2014 to 2022, as against 62 during the UPA rule. Nearly 7,136 individuals were charged with sedition during the current NDA rule, as compared to 3,762 when the UPA was in power. The Centre had last year informed the Supreme Court it wanted to re-examine Section 124A (sedition), urging the latter to put on hold its hearing in a case challenging the legislation. The law has since been frozen. Months later, Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court, who had upheld the hijab ban, was appointed chairman of the 22nd Law Commission and tasked with studying the sedition law. The Centre will factor in his report before taking its final call.

The report cites the weaponisation of social media to propagate hate and attempts to topple elected governments through violent means to justify the need for the law. Jurists reckon its proposed amendments would make the law even more stringent, as the panel recommended increasing the lower limit of punishment from three years to seven years in jail; the maximum sentence is life imprisonment. The panel also suggested including the phrase "tendency to incite violence": mere establishment of inclination rather than proof of actual violence or imminent threat to violence would be sufficient to proceed against a suspect. As for safeguards, it suggested a preliminary inquiry by a police officer in the rank of Inspector before filing the FIR.

Even if the Centre accepts the report and rams through the amended legislation in Parliament, it can't duck the SC's constitutionality test. That perhaps would be the biggest safeguard.

QUICK TAKE

LUXURY AND JAIL LIFE

WHEN an undertrial recently complained about his life in jail, the Supreme Court observed, "nobody can have luxury in jail". But the inmates have the right to expect a life of dignity in prisons: decent accommodation, clean beds and toilets and hygienic food. And that's a luxury in India's overcrowded jails, where prisoners fight for space. On the other hand, luxury can also mean what the CBI assured a British court fugitive Vijay Mallya would get if extradited to India -- personal toilet, a library, a TV set, and a courtyard. 'Luxury' must incessantly remind the State of long-due prison reforms.

India's strategic interests lie in getting Prachanda firmly on its side to contain advancing China, if necessary, in alignment with the United States

PRAGMATISM AND LEGITIMACY MARK PRACHANDA VISIT

MANOJ DAHAL

Associate Editor with Kathmandu-based deshsachar.com

IT was not an enthusiastic response that Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal' Prachanda' got at home on return from a four-day state visit to India which he claimed to be a 'historic' one. Apart from the ceremonial reception at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, public response was either muted or critically hostile: what he got from Delhi was far less than what he gave.

India's refusal to show any flexibility on Nepal's demand for additional air space may cause a waste of 60 billion rupees, some of which was borrowed from China's Axim Bank for constructing two new international airports at Pokhara and Bhairahawa. The only significant agreement this time was Nepal awarding a contract for the development of 679 MW lower Arun and 480 MW Phukot Karnali hydropower projects to Indian public undertakings. There was no discussion on border disputes which, in the past, have brought the bilateral relations to their lowest.

But Prachanda has a reason to hype the success of his visit beyond reality, which also helps India, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to project it as another success in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. Prachanda is struggling hard for his political survival at the fag end of his political career, and India's appreciation of that largely matters. India's mediatory role in the 2005-06 peace process brought Maoists and democratic forces to a common platform in Nepal against the monarchy. The decade-long insurgency led by Prachanda ended with Maoists coming to peace and adopting the democratic process, with the rebels instantly occupying centre stage in the power structure in Nepal. It also led to the sudden exit of the monarchy, then a 240-year-old central and apex institution in the country. Its exit also led to the world's only Hindu kingdom transforming into a secular republic, for which no referendum or public opinion was conducted.

Political parties, especially the ones associated with the 2006 changes, are becoming unpopular largely for poor delivery but more for transparent corruption. Half a dozen mega scams with an equal number of present and past PMs face charges with people in organised and aggressive ways demanding that they should be probed and jailed. The Nepali Congress, the biggest party in Parliament and ruling coalition partner, has many senior leaders currently facing prosecution, allegedly for running a racket that involved sending Nepali citizens as Bhutani refugees to the US.

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Prachanda has been avoiding a probe into the alleged embezzlement of billions of rupees during 2008-2012 when over 19,400 Maoist combatants were kept in cantonments under UN supervision and paid 5,000 rupees per month per person. Many leaders, including Prachanda's one-time deputy, Baburam Bhattarai, had alleged that the amount never went to the combatants but went into the leaders' pockets.

The latest report of Transparency International certified Nepal as the most corrupt in South Asia. Any opportunity for Prachanda to take a break was, therefore, welcome. Still, when he embarked on a four-day official trip to India, it was mainly to seek favourable support from the neighbour. Prachanda's party has just 32 members in the 275-member House of Representatives, with the Nepali Congress, the biggest in the House, and a few other smaller parties supporting him.

India's traditional clout in Nepali politics had visibly declined, with the entry and expansion of China, past 2006, when India and the Western countries supported a radical agenda like republic, ethnicity and secularism. Many western donors interpret secularism as the right to convert to Christianity. In retaliation, a scattered but organised movement to restore Nepal's earlier status as a Hindu kingdom is gaining momentum. Deposed King Gyanendra Shah took some time off from his nationwide tour last month and spent more than a week in Lucknow and met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Both have a cultural thread binding them--Yogi presides over the Gorakhnath Peeth. Shah belongs to a royal dynasty, blessed by the legendary founder of the Nath cult, Guru Gorakhnath.

Prachanda has repeatedly reassured BJP and RSS leaders visiting Nepal that India will not find anyone as credible and trustworthy as him in Nepal. India's strategic interests lie in getting Prachanda firmly on its side to contain advancing China, if necessary, in alignment with the US.

The true significance of Prachanda's visit this time around was his ability to convince India that he was indeed trustworthy. Just a week before his visit, the Investment Board of Nepal that the PM chairs took the first step towards asking a Chinese firm to pack off from the Tamor Hydro project, which President Xi Jinping had shown keen interest in. He also got the citizenship bill, pending for years, approved by President Ram Chandra Poudel an hour before his departure to India. Delhi had been raising the issue of the bill to protect the right of Indian women to marry in Nepal.

While India and Nepal signed a power agreement with India pledging to buy power generated by hydro companies with over 50 per cent stake, Prachanda agreed in principle that Chinese investment would be discouraged from this or any other major sector. Prachanda did not raise two emotional issues--the row over Nepal's Kapilavastu and Lumbini being shown as part of 'Akhanda Bharat' in a mural in the new Parliament House and the pending resolution of border issues that leaders cutting across party lines have asked him to raise with India. He also chose to appease Modi and BJP by offering puja at Mahakaleshwar in Ujjain, perhaps with a not-so-concealed message that he is not anti-Hindu or a radical secularist in practice.

Nepali leaders have a tradition of undertaking the first official visit to India, a neighbour which shares a border on three sides and with 70 per cent external trade. If Prachanda survives as PM, he may be undertaking a trip to China soon, but all he can do this time is to give the north a fait accompli that he did what he thought was in the best pragmatic interest of Nepal.

(manojdahal@gmail.com)

THE PROMISED VOICE IN THE WOODS FOR JATILA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

SRI Ramakrishna Paramahamsa told many brief but deeply symbolic parables; I love expanding and retelling them. In one story, he talks of a child called Jatila who was afraid to cross the deep, dark woods (life) to get to school (knowledge, as in spiritual realisation). Swami Vivekananda's American disciple Margaret Noble or Sister Nivedita charmingly expanded and narrated this 19th-century parable. It appeared as 'Gopala and the Cowherd' in her book, Cradle Tales of Hinduism, in 1907. Amar Chitra Katha later presented the story in an illustrated version. While the Gopala version is well-known, Sri Ramakrishna's original parable about Jatila is somewhat lost and forgotten. It is one of my favourites for the beautiful message it conveys for the life struggles of this millennium:

Jatila lived in a village across the forest from his school. The school was excellent fun, but going and coming back through the shadowy forest frightened him. He was only eight and had just begun to go to school. But he did not like to own that he was afraid of his schoolmates because his name meant 'lion'. He was meant to be brave. He had not quite grown into his name; that was all.

"I won't be afraid next year when I'm bigger or the year after that," he thought sturdily. "Phee-yarn", screeched a peacock nearby, making Jatila jump. "It's only a silly old peacock," he told himself stoutly. But the next instant, the sudden rustle of an animal breaking cover made him scream. It was a jackal with sharp teeth and eyes gleaming red in the rays of the setting sun that streaked through the forest. Jatila broke into a desperate run down the jungle path.

When he got home gasping, he threw himself at his widowed mother, who was going about her chores.

"Mother, I don't want to go to school anymore," he sobbed. "The forest frightens me. Get someone to take me there and bring me back, or I won't go."

"Men can be more dangerous than animals, Jatila," said his mother sadly, "And we have nobody since your father died. It's just the two of us, son. And God, I suppose."

"You know God well, don't you, Mother? You light a lamp to Him every evening and pray," said Jatila curiously.

His mother laughed a strange laugh. "Yes, I know God well. He makes me remember Him a lot."

"Does He know me, Mother?"

"You'll know one day," said his mother, still in that strange, sarcastic voice.

"But who will bring me back from school, Mother?"

His mother bit her lip and looked away. Jatila saw that she was looking hard at the prayer corner where the lamp was lit every evening. She seemed to be thinking something over. She gave a little nod suddenly and turned to look at Jatila.

> It was wonderful to know that he had someone of his own to take him through the forest. Perhaps Madhusudan would show himself one day, after all? It was a jackal with sharp teeth and eyes gleaming red in the rays of the setting sun that streaked through the forest. Jatila broke into a desperate run down the jungle path.

"I didn't remember Madhusudan," she said with a rueful smile. "Come here; let me dry your face. The next time you're afraid, call out to Madhusudan. He'll look after you."

"Who is he, Mother?" asked Jatila.

"He is your elder brother," said his mother laughing but nicely now.

Jatila was very excited. "Why didn't you tell me I had an elder brother? Why doesn't he come home? What does he look like?" he asked eagerly.

"He likes to live in the forest, so I haven't seen him for a long time," said Jatila's mother. "He's tall, dark, and quite strong."

Jatila could hardly sleep that night thinking of his big brother. What a fine thing it was to have one; wait till he told the boys at school, he thought happily. He was very disappointed the next day when his mother warned him not to talk of Madhusudan to anyone in case he never showed up.

He trudged off bravely into the forest, his head full of thoughts about his big brother. These thoughts sustained him each day coming home, and it seemed he was finally getting over his fear of the forest.

However, One day, a big storm blew over the forest after Jatila entered it. The sky grew frighteningly dark. The wind whipped through the trees, which creaked and groaned alarmingly, and dust leaves and twigs hit Jatila in the face as he began to run in fear.

A broken branch fell suddenly across the narrow jungle path, barely missing Jatila, and he grew even more afraid. And then he remembered his elder brother.

"Brother Madhusudan!" he called loudly. But there was no answer, only the wicked wheeze of the forest creaking around him. Jatila called and called until he grew hoarse. "Come to me, Brother, I'm afraid. Where are you?" he wept aloud.

"Don't be afraid. Here I am," said a calm, strong voice from behind him. Jatila spun around but saw no one.

"I can't see you!" he cried pitifully. "Please come to me."

"Keep walking, Jatila, I'm watching your back. Don't be afraid," said the voices.

Feeling comforted, Jatila began to walk on boldly. The storm died away after a while, and he found himself safely at the forest's edge.

"Now let me see you," he cried and whirled around, but nobody was there on the path. Jatila heard a laugh close by from behind the trees.

"I could not keep away when you called, child," he heard the voice say. "I'll take you through whenever you need me. Don't be afraid, lion-heart. You are actually very brave. You just didn't know it. But now you do. Go home now to Mother."

Jatila called out a fond goodbye and raced home to tell his mother. How happy she would be that Madhusudan had appeared just as she said he would. It was wonderful to know that he had someone of his own to take him through the forest. Perhaps Madhusudan would show himself one day, after all? It was something to look forward to now, every day.

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MAILBAG

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Odisha lesson

The terrible tragedy on the railway tracks in Odisha that claimed 288 lives and injured 900 calls for big-time modernisation of the railways on a war-footing through AI-enabled warning systems, long-distance visibility of the proximal track, besides adequate rest and sleep for engine drivers undertaking overnight long-distance travel, than the usual enquiry, state mourning and ex-gratia compensations.
Dr. George Jacob, Kochi

Avoidable tragedy

With reference to the Odisha multi-train accident, it is learnt that if Railways had installed Kavach, an anti-train collision system which alerts when a loco pilot jumps signal, on the Kolkata-Chennai rail route, such a gruesome accident could have been averted. Indian Railways need more safety measures on all routes to protect passengers.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Discourage superstition

The action of the Supreme Court staying the Allahabad High Court order of seeking the opinion of Astrologers in a rape case would be appreciated by all right-thinking citizens [SC stays Allahabad HC's order to examine horoscope of rape victim, June 4]. Cases should be settled based on their merits. Seeking astrological opinion in settling cases is really a retrograde step.
Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Save trees

I have been trying to save few urban trees in Bengaluru from tonnes of network cables. I wrote to BBMP, forestry department, municipal wards in the last two years, but who cares? They have been dilly dallying all this while on various pretexts. These vulnerable trees are weighed down by massive quantities of cables.
Anil Kumar J, email

Protecting data

Instead of banning an innovative technology like ChatGPT at the inception stage itself, safeguard the users' critical data from being misused. Employees should undergo training to upgrade their discretionary power to ascertain as to what is private and public data. Sharing classified data from personal as well as official computer will generate the same outcome. Hence, workplace ban alone will not yield desired results. Either travel with ChatGPT or develop a better one. AI will not replace you, but the person using AI will.
Girish R Edathitta, Pathanamthitta

Hockey win

Congratulations to Indian Hockey team for their victory against Great Britain in penalty shoot out result of 4-2 in the high scoring second leg FIH Pro League match in London.
N Mahadevan, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
Inaugurated Rao Jodha Marg connecting Ghoda Ghati to Qila Road in Jodhpur today. This is our tribute to Rao Jodha ji who founded Jodhpur

Nitish Kumar @NitishKumar
Best wishes on the occasion of Kabir Jayanti. The life philosophy of Saint Kabir and his poetic creation are inspirational.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Deeply distressed to learn of the passing away of Manoj Misra, an indefatigable environmentalist. He was passionate about the protection of rivers.

Only Coromandel Exp was hit: Railway Board

Cites prima facie problem in signalling system as a possible reason behind Friday's horrific train tragedy

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

HOURS after Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said he suspected that some "changes" in the electronic interlocking system could have caused the disastrous train accident at Balasore in Odisha, the Railway Board on Sunday sought give the sequence of the accident at a hurriedly called media briefing.

Jaya Verma Sinha, member, Railway Board (Operation & Business and Development), said a prima facie problem in the "signalling" system "could be" the reason behind the accident. Explaining how the point machine and the interlocking system function, she said that the system is "error proof" and "fail safe" but did not rule out the possibility of external interference.

She asserted that only the Coromandel Express was directly hit in the accident. She said the express train was running with the LHB coaches which normally don't turn turtle in a mishap. But in this accident, it was knocked down by the heavy force of the Coromandel Express that was running at a high speed of 128 kmph.

Earlier in the day, Ashwini Vaishnaw, camping at the accident site for 36 hours since the accident, told the media that the "root cause" of the crash and the people responsible for it have been identified.

The minister had earlier said that some changes in the electronic interlocking system stood out as a prima facie cause behind the accident. "The change that was made to electronic interlocking which led to the accident has been identified," he said.

In Delhi, Sinha said the investigation into the accident by the CRS was about to be completed and that the final cause of would be known thereafter.

"Safety is the top priority for the Railways. It wants to ensure that the evidence is not tampered with and no witness is affected after the accident," she said.

Railway workers engaged in restoration work at the accident site in Balasore on Sunday | EXPRESS

She said that some issues with the signalling are being suspected behind the accident. "But let it be known that only Coromandel Express met with an accident in Balasore that claimed the lives of as many as 275 people and that wrong information is floating around about the involvement of three trains in the accident," she said.

She clarified that only Coromandel Express met with an accident when it was running at a speed of 128kmph. She denied that goods train had also derailed, saying that the goods train was stationary and was loaded with iron ore. "The good train did not get damaged due to its heavy gravitational force even after being hit by Coromandel Express," she said.

She also clarified that derailed coaches of the Coromandel hit the last two coaches of Yashwantpur express which was running at a speed of 126 kmph from down line.

She said that the restoration work on the two main lines would be completed by Sunday late night.

When asked about the findings of the investigation, she said prime facie signaling-related issues are responsible, but authentic information can be shared only after the CRS inquiry.

RESTORATION WORK ON AT FULL STEAM

Jaya Verma Sinha, member Railway Board (Operation & Business and Development), said derailed coaches of the Coromandel Express hit the last two coaches of Yashwantpur Express, which was running at a speed of 126 kmph from down line. She hoped that the restoration works on the two main lines would be completed by Sunday late night.

Cong, BJP, Didi confront each other with data on crash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

TWO days after the Odisha train tragedy, the Opposition on Sunday hit out at the government over the train safety and investigation aspects while the BJP defended itself by quoting figures of derailments and deaths during the tenure of three ex-railway ministers, including Mamata Banerjee.

The Congress accused the government of not heeding several red flags by the CAG, parliamentary standing committees and experts. The party demanded the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. AICC media head Pawan Khera and Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil said it was a man-made devastation caused by utter negligence, serious lapses in the system, incompetence, and a narcissistic sense of "know it all" displayed by the Modi government.

"Unequivocally and unambiguously we demand the resignation of Vaishnaw," said Khera. In Kolkata, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said the Centre should stop playing a "dirty nuisance game" to malign her image. Her criticism came after the railway minister refuted her theory that the accident could have been averted had an anti-collision device, introduced during her stint as the railway minister in 2009-11, been in place.

She said 309 persons died in five rail accidents during her stint from 1999 to 2000 and 2009 to 2011. In Delhi, the BJP launched a counter-attack citing figures during the tenure of three former railway ministers. "The track record of UPA railway ministers was nothing short of a disaster," said Amit Malviya, member of the BJP national executive and co-in-charge of West Bengal BJP. He alleged that 1,527 deaths due to train accidents were reported during the tenure of Nitish Kumar as railway minister in 1,000 derailments and 79 collisions. He cited data on accidents reported during the tenure of Mamata Banerjee as railway minister.

POWER GAMES

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Internal Report

SURVEYS BRING BAD NEWS FOR BJP IN MP, UP, MAHA

The monthly internal surveys of the BJP have become a subject of discussion in the political circles. According to reports, a survey conducted in Madhya Pradesh predicted a comprehensive defeat of the party in the assembly elections to be held in November this year. The party had been counting on incumbent Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan's popularity and the hugely successful Hindutva plank. It has built a 108 feet Parshuram statue in Katni, which will be inaugurated on June 12. It is building a Rs 100-crore Sant Ravidas temple at Sagar, for which water and bricks are being gathered from villages across the state in a campaign like the one carried out to build the Ram temple at Ayodhya. But the uprooting of the statues of Saptrishis by strong winds at the Mahakal temple complex in Ujjain has dealt a blow to the BJP's Hindutva plank. The opposition Congress charged the BJP with indulging in corruption even at holy sites. The reports from Maharashtra are not too different. The party's alliance with the Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena does not appear to have gone down well with the people. The alliance faces a rout if elections are held today. In Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP expects to improve its position from the 62 seats won in 2019, reports do not suggest any substantial improvement. The BJP has been conducting monthly surveys to gauge the performance of its governments and the people's mood.

Southern Discomfort

MEKEDATU TO TEST THE STRENGTH OF CONG, DMK TIES

All its allies, including the DMK, celebrated the Congress victory in Karnataka. Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin attended the swearing-in of Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. But days after taking office, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who also holds the irrigation portfolio, announced that the state government would expedite the building of Mekedatu dam across the river Cauvery. The project is vital for Karnataka to supply drinking water to its capital, Bangalore. It was first approved by the then Siddaramaiah government in 2017. Tamil Nadu has opposed the dam as it feels it will reduce water flow to the state. Sources in the DMK said they expect the Congress leadership to respect Tamil sentiments on the issue just as the DMK respected the Congress leadership's decisions on various issues, including the boycott of the inauguration ceremony of the new parliament building. They said Cauvery water is a matter of life and death for the people of Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal have noted that there is already enough storage facility in the Cauvery basin for the storage and distribution of water, they said, adding that there is, therefore, no pressing need for building an additional facility. Sources said that Shivakumar's announcement notwithstanding, the decision on the dam would have to be taken at a political level by the Congress leadership.

Bengal family loses three sons and all breadearners

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

THE accident in Balasore has not only snatched away Subhadra Gayen's three sons but also dried up income of the 12-member family in Basanti, South 24-Parganas of West Bengal.

The three brothers — Haran (47), Nishikanta (45) and Dibakar (41) — were going to Andhra Pradesh to work as migrant labourers. They had promised Subhadra that they would come back after two months with their hard-earned money to take care of their children's education and better life for the family members.

"Now, I and my daughters-in-law and their children do not know what we will do. I find no way out other than begging, which will be difficult to feed 12 of us," said Subhadra.

Basanti, a part of Bay of Bengal's Sunderbans region, is inhabited with migrant workers because of lack of jobs in remote areas. The three left their village on Friday along with their two other neighbours — Bikash Halder (24) and Sanjay Halder (28) — to board the Coromandel Express from Shalimar station in Howrah.

"We heard about the train accident on Friday night when a neighbour, who has TV in his house, came to our house after watching news. I started praying for the safety of my sons and spent sleepless night," Subhadra said.

"Next morning, the news of death of Bikash and Sanjay came. I was counting moments with a ray of hope that there would be good news for me. But my hope shattered when the local police came and informed me that my three sons were found dead in the mangled compartment in which they were travelling. Everything in front of me collapsed," recounted Subhadra in her 70s, with tears rolling down her faces.

Anjita, Haran's wife, was speechless and fainted several times since then. Nishikanta's wife Rekha continued lamenting hugging her two children.

"Dibakar's wife Brihaspati said she was against her husband's decision of going to Andhra Pradesh. I told him that I would also join him and work as daily labouer in our area. But he said getting a job of a daily labourer in our area is difficult. I even told him that we would start begging, but he did not listen to me. He left for Andhra with two brothers to earn money for our children's education," she said.

According to state government officials, a total of 12 people lost their lives and 110 were injured from South 24-Paraganas.

Migrant labour

Haran, Nishikanta and Dibakar from Basanti, a part of Bay of Bengal's Sunderbans region, were going to Andhra Pradesh to work as migrant labourers and promised their father they would come back after two months with money to take care of their children's education and family members. A large number of migrant workers venture out to other states due to lack jobs in remote areas.

Now, I and my daughters-in-law and their children do not know what we will do. I find no way out other than begging, which will be difficult to feed 12 of us

Subhadra Gayen, Father

Sluggish sowing in kharif season sparks fears of agrarian crisis

JITENDER CHOUBEY @New Delhi

THE country may be facing an agrarian crisis if the data pertaining to the sowing of crops in the kharif season is anything to go by. Even a month into the season, many farmers seem disinclined to sow summer crops, probably due to the prediction of a weak monsoon.

Even the fact that the country received excess pre-monsoon rainfall failed to instil confidence among farmers to invest in sowing food crops. As on June 2, the sowing area is around 70.74 Lakh Hectares (LHa) which is less than the corresponding period last year (see table). Around 50% of the country's population resides in rural areas and depends on agriculture-related activities as their mainstay. A lower output in agricultural produce will, then, adversely affect their income levels.

The shortfall in sowing areas includes that of rice and oilseeds. About 28.51 LHa of area coverage under summer rice has been reported as compared to 30.33 LHa during the corresponding period last year. In the case of oilseeds, about 10.26 LHa area is under cultivation compared to 11.11 LHa during the corresponding period of last year. Experts say the possibility of a weaker and delayed southwest monsoon has started showing its impact on the early sowing of summer crops, even though the sowing of water-efficient crops such as pulses and coarse grains is picking up.

Pulses have been sown in about 19.86 LHa area compared to 19.11 LHa during the corresponding period of last year. In the case of coarse grains, about 12.10 LHa area is now under cultivation compared to 11.73 LHa during the corresponding period last year. Notably, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast a near normal monsoon, with only a slight delay in its arrival. Meanwhile, the condition of El Nino – a warming of the ocean off the Pacific coast of South America – is getting stronger, which may reduce rainfall and cause a drought like situation in India.

AREA COVERAGE UNDER SUMMER CROPS AS ON JUNE 02

S.No.	Crop	Normal area (in LHa)	Area in 2023	Area in 2022	Increase/ decrease in percentage
1.	Rice	399.41	28.51	30.33	-1.82
2	Pulses	140.18	19.86	19.11	0.75
3.	Coarse grains	183.57	12.10	11.73	0.38
4.	Oilseeds	186.21	10.26	11.11	-0.85
	Total	909.38	70.74	72.28	-1.54

Monsoon prediction making farmers apprehensive?

Many farmers seem disinclined to sow summer crops, probably due to the prediction of a weak monsoon and even as country received excess pre-monsoon rainfall failed to instil confidence among farmers.

Will decimate BJP in all polls: Rahul in US

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

AFTER Karnataka, the Congress party will decimate the BJP in Telangana and other state polls, said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while addressing an event in New York. Gandhi, who is on a three-city tour in the US, said, "We have shown in Karnataka that we can decimate the BJP. We did not defeat them, we decimated them. We smashed them in Karnataka".

The former Congress president's comments came at a time when Opposition parties are making efforts to stitch up an anti-BJP front ahead of the 2024 elections. However, the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana does not share a warm relationship with Congress, its main contender in the state.

"I want you to know that we are going to decimate them in Telangana next. It will be hard to find the BJP in Telangana after this election," he said. The assembly election in Telangana is slated for the end of this year. He also exuded confidence that Congress will win elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh also. Victory in the upcoming state polls will be repeated in the 2024 general elections also, said Gandhi.

Centre bans 14 combination drugs due to potential risks for patients

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

THE Centre has prohibited manufacturing, sale and distribution of 14 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs due to lack of therapeutic justification and for potential risks to humans.

These medicines, which include cough syrups, anti-allergy drugs and pain relief drugs, have been banned with immediate effect on the advice of an expert committee's recommendation that they are a risk to health.

According to experts, FDCs mix two or more active ingredients in a fixed ratio. The FDCs that have been banned include Nimesulide+ Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Pholcodine+ Promethazine, Chlopheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup, Amoxicillin+ Bromhexine and Ammomium Chloride + Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan amongst others.

These medicines were a part of the 344 plus 5 FDCs (fixed dose combinations) which were earlier banned by the Health Ministry in March 2016. But, many affected manufacturers of the banned FDCs 344 plus 5 medicines challenged the decision in Delhi High Court. They contested the ban order on the ground that their medicines were manufactured before 1988 when the rule mandating marketing approval by the CDSCO for every drug came into force.

The Delhi HC gave a stay and the matter went to the Supreme Court. The apex court gave a final order in December 2017 ordering the matter to be looked into again by the government. The centre then appointed another expert committee which in July 2018 essentially reiterated the recommendations of the earlier committee, spelling out the reasons for ban in greater clarity. After two court judgments and two expert committees reiterated the ban, a third committee was appointed to examine specifically the 15 FDCs approved before September 1988. This committee also gave a nod for the ban.

In reaction, Chinu Srinivasan, co-convenor of All-India Drug Action Network (AIDAN), and one of the early interveners, said, "This is a most welcome news. The law of the land and the science of pharmacology have won and have worked for the safety of the people. These FDCs are irrational and unscientific, the expert committees have said clearly. These manufacturers were not able to prove the merit of their medicines."

Explaining the long-drawn battle against banning of these medicines, Srinivasan said that all manufacturers are required to get marketing approval for new drugs from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) before obtaining manufacturing license from state drug administrations.

But in the case of the 344 plus 5 FDCs, he said, the manufacturers secured manufacturing licences from states without getting mandatory marketing license from the CDSCO which can be obtained only after their safety and efficacy is proved by submitting relevant data.

POWER THEFT

An FIR has been registered against a house owner for allegedly stealing electricity worth more than ₹5.5 lakh in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said on Sunday. At least 19,784 units of electricity have been stolen

4 MEN DROWN WHILE BATHING IN YAMUNA IN AGRA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

Attempt to stir up caste cauldron in poll-bound Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh as parties organise caste rallies in different parts

LS Speaker exits from Mali mahapanchayat meeting

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE political temperature in Rajasthan is rising a few months before the Assembly polls. The Mahapanchayat (Mahasangam) of the Mali Samaj, to which Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** belongs, was held in Jaipur on Sunday. Although Gehlot couldn't attend the event, his son and RCA chief Vaibhav Gehlot, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya were present in the rally.

In the election year, major castes in Rajasthan are organising caste-based events to showcase their dominance. Jat, Rajput, and Brahmin communities have already held such events in the last few months.

On Sunday, BJP leaders faced an uncomfortable situation. Despite repeated refusals, members of the Mali community took over the stage four times, displaying placards in support of the Gehlot government. When Keshav Prasad Maurya began his address, supporters of Gehlot started booing him.

Maurya's speech praising the BJP's style of working enraged Gehlot's supporters, who started chanting slogans. BJP supporters in the gathering countered the slogans. Maurya stopped his speech, urging everyone to avoid conflict. The awkward situation saw Lok Sabha Speaker Birla leaving the gathering without delivering his speech.

Vaibhav Gehlot in his address expressed confidence in the Congress government in Rajasthan, citing the support received from the people. He also referenced the social reformer Jyotiba Phule, who belonged to the Mali community, highlighting Phule's significant contributions to society and his efforts towards the uplift of Dalits.

During the rally, the Mali community put up several demands before the government, including honouring Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitri Bai Phule with the Bharat Ratna and installing their statues in the new Parliament House. They also demanded a 12% reservation for Saini, Mali, Kushwaah, Shakya, Maurya, Suman, Vanmali, and Bhoi Mali Samaj based on their extreme economic and social backwardness. They also requested national political parties to allocate a minimum number of seats for the Mali Samaj in each district during assembly elections.

BJP left embarassed

On Sunday, BJP leaders faced a situation. Despite repeated refusals, members of the Mali community took over the stage four times, displaying placards in support of the Gehlot government

Chouhan raises pitch for Brahmins at OBC event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

The state has made arrangements to give honorarium to the priests of temples and incentives to the students studying in Sanskrit schools, and performing rites

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, MP CM

Caste meet

While the OBC castes gathering was graced by the CM and his wife, key Brahmin leaders from the ruling BJP as well as the opposition Congress attended the Brahmin Mahkumbh.

A distance of 800 meters separated two caste specific mega gatherings in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal on Sunday. While the BHEL Dussehra Maidan hosted the mega gathering of the OBC Kirar, Dhakad and Malav clan (the CM **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** hails from the Kirar caste only), around 800 meters away at the BHEL Jamburi Maidan, the Brahmins held their show of strength in form of the Brahmin Mahakumbh.

While the OBC castes gathering was graced by the CM and his wife Sadhna Singh Chouhan (latter being the national head of the Kirar Kshatriya caste body), key Brahmin leaders from the ruling BJP as well as the opposition Congress attended the Brahmin Mahkumbh.

The BJP was represented on the Brahmin Mahakumbh stage by its caste leaders, including state party chief VD Sharma, senior most cabinet minister Gopal Bhargava, former minister and current MLA Sanjay Pathak and former Bhopal mayor Alok Sharma. The Congress, on the other hand, was represented by its Brahmin politicians, among them former Union minister Suresh Pachouri and former MP minister PC Sharma.

Addressing the Brahmin Mahkumbh, the CM made a host of announcements, including declaring Parashuram Jayanti as a public holiday in the state.

"The state government has made arrangements to give honorarium to the priests of temples and incentives to the students studying in Sanskrit schools, who are becoming proficient in performing religious rites. An initiative has been taken to give ₹8,000 to the students of Class I to V and ₹10,000 to the students of Class VI to Class XII. The biography of Lord Parshuram will also be taught in the textbooks," the CM said.

Former Union minister Suresh Pachouri read out the message from state Congress president Kamal Nath for the Brahmins caste. Ruling BJP leader Sumit Pachauri read the 11-point demand letter on behalf of the Brahmin caste. The 11-point letter, prominently included the demand for 14% reservation to Brahmins in the state and not lodging FIRs in cases under SC/ST Atrocities Act without proper investigation.

GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
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Formalin detected in imported fish

Fish-loving Assamese have a reason to be worried about. Researchers reconfirmed the presence of formalin in imported fish samples. The state's department of fisheries had earlier assigned four institutes to conduct a probe into allegations that fish, laced with formalin, were being sold in the markets. Some unscrupulous traders use formalin to preserve fish. All seven samples, collected by Raha-based Fishery College and sent to the Central Marine Fish Research Institute for testing, were found to have formalin. Similarly, the Food Safety Department found its presence in 10 of the 86 samples following testing.

Zebras back in Guwahati Zoo after 30 years

After nearly 30 years, zebras are living at the Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden, popularly known as Guwahati Zoo. The other day, the state's Minister of Environment and Forest Chandra Mohan Patowary released two zebras (a male and a female) and a giraffe (female) at this zoo. For nearly 30 years, it had no zebra. The zebras were brought from Mysore while the giraffe was brought from Patna. The minister was hopeful the zoo authorities would be able to take good care of the animals and increase their population. He named the zebras Joy and Joya and the giraffes Bijay and Bijaya. He said the female giraffe would be a good company to the lone male giraffe.

Rising temperature throws life out of gear

Scorching heat, caused by deficit rainfall, has thrown normal life out of gear in Assam. The temperature is soaring and it has crossed the 37 degrees Celsius mark. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said the state received 38 per cent deficit rainfall in the pre-monsoon period (March 1 to May 31) this year. It had received 40 per cent excess rainfall during the corresponding period last year. Given the rising temperature, the government has decided to reschedule the timing of schools. Classes will now be taken from 7:30 am. Eleven students of Sonitpur Jatiya Vidyalaya in northern Assam's Tezpur fainted in their classrooms on Friday moments after complaining about discomfort.

Top C'garh Maoist dies of heart attack

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

TOP Maoist leader Katakam Sudarshan alias Comrade Anand, 69, a member of the decision making Central Committee and politburo of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) organisation, died owing to heart attack in a remote Dandakaranya forest, south Chhattisgarh.

He died of heart stroke, succumbing to his chronic illness suffering from lung infection, long-standing diabetes, high blood pressure stated the press statement issued by Abhay, spokesperson of the central committee of CPI (Maoist).

A native of Adilabad district (Telangana) Sudharshan joined the banned outfit in 1974 while pursuing his diploma course in mining and was associated with the CPI (Maoist) for almost five decades.

His death is seen as a major setback for the Maoists. With as many as 17 criminal cases registered against him, Sudarshan, was known to have been significantly engaged in strengthening and the expansion of the Maoist movement in different states.He was carrying a reward of ₹1.5 crore.

A source told this newspaper that he was seeking treatment for his illness somewhere in the forest terrain of south Bastar. The Maoists have also released his images with the press note.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

An under-construction bridge over the Ganga collapsed in Bihar's Bhagalpur district on Sunday | PTI

Centre sets up 3-member inquiry panel to probe Manipur violence

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE Centre has set up a three-member Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, to conduct a probe into the incidents of violence in Manipur since the first week of May, which has killed at least 100 people and left thousands homeless.

The panel, chaired by Justice Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, will specifically examine the triggers of the May 3 violence that sparked the ethnic conflict still raging in the state.

The commission will try to determine if there were any lapses or dereliction of duty on the part of authorities and if the measures taken to prevent the outbreak of violence were sufficient. Other members of the Imphal-headquartered commission are retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar.

The commission must submit its report to the Centre as soon as possible, and no later than six months from the date of its first sitting. If it deems fit, it can make interim reports to the Centre before the said date.

Meanwhile, violence continued in the state with suspected Kuki militants torching nearly 100 abandoned houses, including that of a Congress MLA, in the wee hours of Sunday.

The state has been witnessing sporadic violence ever since ethnic violence first broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the state between May 29 and June 1, during which he held talks with representatives of all segments of the Manipur society. Shah said peace and prosperity of Manipur are the Centre's top priority and had instructed officials to strictly deal with any activities that disturb peace.

After 3 yrs of legal battle, Mehbooba gets her passport back for 10 yrs

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER three years of legal battle, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP chief **Mehbooba Mufti** has been issued a passport for 10 years. Mehbooba, who is very critical of Article 370 abrogation, was issued a passport on June 1. The passport is valid for 10 years and will expire on May 31, 2033.

The PDP chief's passport had expired in 2019 and since then she had been seeking its renewal. She had fought a prolonged legal battle in J&K High court and Delhi HC to get the travel documents.

In March this year, Delhi High Court had asked passport authority to decide within three months on issuing a fresh travel document to Mehbooba.

PDP chief had in February this year written to the External Affairs minister and sought his intervention in getting her and her mother's passport.

"My mother and I applied for passport renewal in March 2020. J&K CID gave an adverse report that issuing passports to my 80-yr old mother and me will undermine national security. We moved J&K High Court and after three years, the court gave clear directions that Regional Passport Office in Srinagar shouldn't operate as CID's mouthpiece by denying passports on vague grounds," read Mehbooba's letter.

Mehbooba had been seeking a passport for herself and her mother since 2020 to undertake the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Mehbooba, who was the first woman chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir when she headed PDP-BJP coalition government, has been very critical of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and demands restoration of J&K's special status.

She was among the dozen mainstream leaders booked under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after her detention. She was released from 14 months detention in October 2020.

The PDP chief's daughter Iltija Mufti, who had also moved the court after being denied passport, was granted a country-specific 2-year passport in April. Her passport is valid for the UAE only with two-year validity

Punjab cotton sowing area lowest in 10 yrs

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THIS year, cotton crop was sown on only 1.75 lakh hectares in Punjab against the target of 3 lakh hectares set by the state government. This is the lowest area under cotton crop in the state in last 10 years.

While the state has the potential to bring around 8 lakh hectares under cotton crop as it used to have more than 7 lakh hectares under the crop in late 1980s and early 1990s.

In 2013-14, the area under cotton in the state was 4.45 lakh hectares, a record, and this year, it is the lowest-ever.

Many factors are cited for the reduction in the area for cotton cultivation: First, the time when the crop is sown is between April 1 and May 31, but due to rains this year, the crop could not be sown properly in 25,000 acres.

At least twice the crop was sown but it faced pest attacks.

Second, despite officials' persuasion, the farmers, especially in the Malwa region, did not prefer the cotton crop for fear of crop diseases, said sources.

"Most farmers are unaware about the latest damage control methods. Besides, the weather was unfavorable, though some farmers had re-sown the crop amid high input costs," said a farmer.

He said the farmers are opting for paddy due to its high yield and late-sown varieties.

Traditionally, the state has had more than 7 lakh hectares under cotton crop -- in 1988-89, it was 7.58 lakh hectares, 1989-90 it was 7.33 lakh hectares and in 1991-92, it was 7.19 lakh hectarers.

The cotton belt of the state comprises eight districts of the state -- Bathinda, Fazilka, Mansa and Muktsar.

Others are Moga, Barnala, Sangrur and Faridkot.

This year by May 31, as the sowing season ends, the crop was sown over around 1.75 lakh hectares, which is only 58% of the target of 3 lakh hectors.

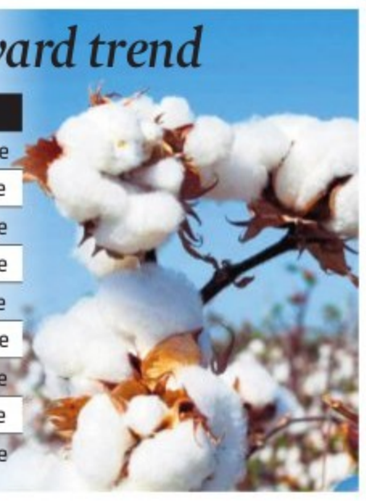
While last year, the crop was sown over 2.48 lakh hectares against the target of 4 lakh hectares.

"Canal water was made available to farmers on time. This year, the state government had offered a 33% subsidy on Bt Cotton seed, as recommended by Punjab Agricultural University," said an officer of Agriculture department.

While last year, the farmers got a good price for cotton, the average cotton yield per acre was four to six quintal and the price was between ₹7,500 to ₹8,000 per quintal.

Downward trend

Year	Area
2013-14	4.48 Lakh Hectare
2014-15	4.21 Lakh Hectare
2015-16	3.35 Lakh Hectare
2016-17	2.85 Lakh Hectare
2017-18	2.91 Lakh Hectare
2018-19	2.68 Lakh Hectare
2019-20	2.48 Lakh Hectare
2020-21	2.51 Lakh Hectare
2021-22	2.48 Lkah Hectare



Tiger territorial battles intensify in U'khand; 5th death in a month

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

The tigers of Uttarakhand seem to be engraged in the recent past. After the recent death in the Corbett Tiger Reserve, a tiger and a cub died during a conflict in Rajaji Tiger Reserve on Saturday.

The sudden increase in conflict among tigers has resulted in the death of five of them in the last one month due to a battle for supremacy in the forest.

Speaking to this daily, Director Rajaji Tiger reserve, Saket Badola told, "On Saturday, the staff of Lalukhala Beat during patrolling noticed the bodies of an adult female leopard and its cub (male) lying there. After this, the forest department, WWF and veterinary officials were called to the spot."

According to the forest department, "The search for another leopard cub who ran into the bushes after seeing this conflict continues".

Not hunted by poachers, says park official

Director of Rajaji National Park Saket Badola said, "When the bodies were examined, it was found that their organs were safe. Looking at the place around them, it was found that there are traces of tiger's paws here. After it was confirmed that the two were not hunted by any poacher, but were killed by the tiger in the conflict. After the post-mortem, bodies were burnt as per rules.

Director Badola told, "When the bodies of both were examined, it was found that their organs were safe. Looking at the place around them, it was found that there are traces of tiger's paws here. After it was confirmed that the two were not hunted by any poacher, but were killed by the tiger in the conflict."

After the post-mortem, both the bodies were burnt as per rules. An investigation conducted by the forest department has revealed, "There has been a conflict between a leopard and a tiger in Rajaji Tiger Reserve. Here the tiger killed the adult female leopard and its cub.

On Friday, the carcass of a tiger was found in the Kalagarh range of Corbett. According to experts, the cause of death is a conflict between them. On May 5, the carcass of another tiger was found at the same place.

It was feared that there was a conflict between these two tigers, due to which both of them died alternately. Similarly, the carcass of a leopard has also been found in Gangolihat.

The villagers had seen this leopard fighting with another leopard

25-YEAR-OLD
woman was fatally shot and six others were wounded on Sunday when gunfire erupted in Chicago

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	19	TDS	Los Angeles	19	15	LC
Colombo	31	26	LC	Melbourne	19	10	HR
Dhaka	39	28	TDS	Moscow	17	8	HR
Dubai	41	32	SNY	New York	25	17	LC
Houston	30	22	SNY	Singapore	32	26	TDS
Istanbul	23	17	LC	Toronto	24	16	LC
London	19	10	LC	Washington	27	14	LC

Local residents get free meals from volunteers against the background of their apartment house, damaged in the Russian rocket attack, in Kharkiv Ukraine | AP

Russian strike kills toddler in Ukraine's Dnipro

After the attack, Zelenskyy says at least 500 children have been killed since the invasion

KYIV

A Ukrainian man rushed to his home in a suburb of the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, helping rescuers pull the body of his 2-year-old daughter from the rubble of their apartment destroyed in one of Russia's latest airstrikes of the war, authorities reported on Sunday.

Writing on Telegram shortly after the body of Liza was recovered, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that at least 500 Ukrainian children have been killed since Russia launched its full-scale invasion. The UN says that around 1,000 other Ukrainian children have been wounded, and thousands of others have been forcibly deported to Russia.

Zelenskyy said, "Russian weapons and hatred continue to take and destroy the lives of Ukrainian children every day," adding that "many of them could have become famous scholars, artists, sports champions, contributing to Ukraine's history."

Liza was killed when a Russian rocket landed on Saturday night in a yard next to her apartment building while she was home with her mother, said Serhiy Lysak, the regional governor of Dnipropetrovsk.

The girl's father rushed home from work.

"The father was on duty, and as I was told, he personally cleared the rubble and pulled out his wife and his daughter. Just imagine the scale of this tragedy," Ukrainian Deputy PM Iryna Vereshchuk said, reporting on the rescue that lasted until early Sunday. The girl's mother was hospitalised under intensive care.

Lysak said that five children were among 22 people wounded in Saturday's attack, which damaged two residential buildings.

Russian drone and cruise missile strikes on Sunday targeted multiple areas of the country, including the capital, Kyiv.

The Ukrainian air force said that air defences downed three of five Shahed self-exploding drones and four of the six cruise missiles fired.

Ukrainian air force spokesman Yurii Ihnat said that two missiles struck a military air base in Kropyvnytskyi in central Ukraine's Kyrovohrad province. He didn't report damage.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that the military destroyed Ukrainian warplanes and ammunition depots in strikes on Ukrainian airfields, but didn't give further specifics. *AP*

Imran to be tried in military court: Defence Min

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances were that former PM Imran Khan could be tried in a military court for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents in which military and state installations were attacked by his party workers.

Imran could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days, Asif was quoted as saying by *The Express Tribune* newspaper.

He also confirmed that no case had been registered against him so far in connection with the May 9 attacks.

"Definitely there are chances that Imran Khan can be tried in a military court," the minister said while responding to a question if the deposed premier could be prosecuted under the Army Act.

His remarks came days after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Khan will be tried in a military court as the former PM was the "architect" of the May 9 incidents.

Imran's party found itself in hot waters when protesters allegedly belonging to the party attacked civil and military properties on May 9 following the arrest of Khan in the Al-Qadir corruption case.

The trial of people involved in the attacks on military installations in different parts of the country, including the attack on General Headquarters in Rawalpindi as well as Lahore's Jinnah House where the Corps Commander was residing, has already begun.

Imran khan, former Pakistan PM

Khawaja Asif, Pak's Defence Minister

Meanwhile, the women supporters of Imran who have been arrested in connection with arson attacks on military installations will be jailed for 10 years for their "unpardonable crime," a senior official has said.

PM's Special Assistant Attaullah Tarar told reporters that a joint investigation team has been formed to find out the mastermind of those attacks.

"All those including women involved in attacks on military installations will be handed down a severe punishment," he said. "The women who attacked the military installations on May 9 will get a punishment of 10 years as their crime is unpardonable," Tarar said.

Tarar slammed the imprisoned women from the PTI for complaining about the substandard food served to them in jails. "We can't provide them tasty food in jail. These women were on the forefront in attacking the state installations," he said.

Tarar also said there would be no talks with the PTI till all culprits of the May 9 violence are punished.

A joint investigation team has been formed to find out the mastermind of these attacks, he said, adding that it has been established that Imran was behind the unrest. *PTI*

HK cops detain prominent figures on Tiananmen anniversary

Hong Kong police on Sunday detained several key pro-democracy figures attempting to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown in China

Police patrol near Victoria Park on the 34th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown in Hong Kong on Sunday | AP

Detention of prominent figures

Other prominent figures detained were Alexandra Wong, a well-known activist nicknamed "Grandma Wong," former chairwoman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association Mak Yin-ting, and Leo Tang, a former leader of the now-disbanded Confederation of Trade Unions

Breaking up peaceful protest

- Discussion of the Tiananmen crackdown is highly sensitive for China's communist leadership and commemoration is forbidden on the mainland
- The government sent troops and tanks to Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 to break up peaceful protests, brutally crushing protests calling for political change. More than 1,000 were killed

Banning the annual vigil

- For years, Hong Kongers would converge on the city's Victoria Park and its surrounding neighbourhood to commemorate the events of **June 4, 1989**—taking part in candlelight vigils.
- But since Beijing's imposition of the national security law on Hong Kong in **2020** to quell dissent, the annual vigil was banned, and the organisers were charged under the law

Police's crackdown

- This weekend, scores of police were deployed in the area, stopping people to search their belongings and question them
- By late afternoon, *AFP* reporters witnessed at least 10 people taken away by police in vans—including Chan Po-ying, the leader of the city's League of Social Democrats, one of the last few remaining opposition groups
- The veteran activist was holding a small LED candle and two flowers, before she was immediately seized by police

China warns NATO-like alliances could lead to conflict in Asia-Pacific

SINGAPORE

CHINA'S defence minister Li Shangfu warned on Sunday against establishing NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying they would plunge the region into a "whirlpool" of conflict.

"Attempts to push for NATO-like (alliances) in the Asia-Pacific is a way of kidnapping regional countries and exaggerating conflicts and confrontations," Li told a security conference in Singapore. Li warned that these alliances would "plunge the Asia-Pacific into a whirlpool of disputes and conflicts."

Li's comments echoed long-held Chinese criticism of the United States' efforts to shore up alliances in the region and counter China's rise.

The United States is a member of AUKUS, which groups it with Australia and Britain. Washington is also a member of the QUAD group, which includes Australia, India and Japan.

"Today's Asia-Pacific needs open and inclusive cooperation, not buddying up into small cliques," Li said at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit.

Li Shangfu, China's Defence Minister

Li sought to paint the United States as the trigger of regional instability, and China as seeking to ease tensions.

"It cannot be denied that if a fierce conflict or confrontation occurs between China and the United States, it would bring unbearable pain for the world," he said.

On Saturday, Austin called for top-level defence talks with Beijing to prevent any kind of miscalculations.

"The more that we talk, the more that we can avoid the misunderstandings and miscalculations that could lead to crisis or conflict," Austin said. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM VILLAGES

Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Angela Tanoesoedibjo noted three aspects that should be considered and prepared for in developing tourism villages. The three aspects are position of the tourist destination, economic activities in the villages, and their potential role in the supply chain for tourism, she said. She said tourism villages can expect to raise tourist stay period if they consider the three aspects. "Development of the village is intended as a tourist destination that can be visited for a stay and to know further the villagers' culture," she said

MALAYSIA

TWO SISTERS DROWN WHILE SWIMMING

Two young sisters in Malaysia's Sungai Sepang Kechil drowned while swimming. An official from Selangor Fire and Rescue Department said the incident occurred at 2.34 pm on Sunday. "Based on our checks, two sisters aged seven and nine, were swimming there when they started to drown," the official said

THAILAND

THAI RED CROSS ORGANISES CEREMONY

The Thai Red Cross Society has recently organised an event to commemorate the first anniversary of establishing the Office of the Youth Red Cross and Red Cross Volunteers. The event took place on June 2. The ceremony was titled 'A New Step with red Cross Volunteers for Thai Society' and was presided over by Khun Ying Jada Wattanasiritham, Treasurer of the Thai Red Cross Society. During the ceremony, two individuals were honoured with prestigious plaques in recognition of their outstanding dedication, *NNT* reported

Polish oppn stages major anti-govt demonstration

WARSAW

HALF a million protesters packed the streets of central Warsaw on Sunday, Poland's opposition organisers said claiming one of the biggest anti-government demonstrations in the 30 years since the end of communism.

Lech Walesa, a former Polish president, Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the fight against communism, joined opposition figures at the head of the march ahead of legislative elections in the autumn.

People travelled from across the country after former prime minister Donald Tusk, head of the centrist opposition party Civic Platform (PO), called for the protest against "the high cost of living, swindling and lying, and for democracy, free elections and the EU."

People attend an anti-government demonstration in front of the Presidential Palace organized by the opposition in Warsaw on Sunday | AFP

The leaders of most opposition parties encouraged their supporters to join the march against the nationalist Law and Justice party (PiS) led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

"City Hall estimates (the number of protesters) at 500,000 now," the organisers' spokesman Jan Grabiec told *AFP*.

Decked out in the red and white colours of the nation, demonstrators carried placards proclaiming "Enough's enough," "No to authoritarian Poland" and blaming the ruling PiS party for exorbitant prices.

Once the head of the European Council, Tusk addressed the crowds saying the opposition's role is "of comparable importance" to that in the 1980s and the fight against communism.

Walesa, who led the Solidarity union in a successful battle against communism, has long been absent from politics. He told the marchers he had been "patiently" waiting for the day when the nationalist party and Kaczynski will be forced out. "Mr. Kaczynski, we have come to get you. The day has finally arrived," Walesa said. *AFP*

US lambasts at China for sailing ship near American destroyer in an unsafe manner

WASHINGTON

A Chinese Navy ship manoeuvered in an "unsafe manner" near an American destroyer transiting the Taiwan Strait, the US military said.

The Chinese ship "executed manoeuvers in an unsafe manner in the vicinity of Chung-Hoon," an American destroyer, during the Saturday transit, the US Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

Beijing's ship "overtook Chung-Hoon on their port side and crossed their bow at 150 yards. Chung-Hoon maintained course and slowed to 10 (knots) to avoid a collision," it said.

It then "crossed Chung-Hoon's bow a second time starboard to port at 2,000 yards and remained off Chung-Hoon's port bow," coming within 150 yards at the closest point, the US military said, adding that the "US military flies, sails, and operates safely and responsibly anywhere international law allows."

China's defence minister defended sailing a warship across the path of an American destroyer and Canadian frigate transiting the Taiwan Strait, saying on Sunday that such so-called "freedom of navigation" patrols are a provocation to China. Gen. Li Shangfu said that China doesn't have any problems with "innocent passage" but that "we must prevent attempts that try to use those freedom of navigation (patrols), that innocent passage, to exercise hegemony of navigation."

Li suggested the US and its allies had created the danger, and should instead, focus on taking "good care of your own territorial airspace and waters." *Agencies*

Kim's sister slams UN, vows to attempt 2nd satellite launch

SEOUL

THE sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed again Sunday to push for a second attempt to launch a spy satellite as she lambasted a UN Security Council meeting over the North's first, failed launch.

The North's attempt to put its first military spy satellite into orbit last Wednesday failed as its rocket crashed off Korean Peninsula's western coast.

An emergency meeting of the UN Security Council was still convened at the request of the US, Japan and other countries to discuss the launch because it had violated council resolutions banning the North from performing any launch using ballistic technology.

On Sunday, Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, called the UN council "a political appendage" of the US, saying its recent meeting was convened following America's "gangster-like request."

She accused the UN council of being "discriminative and rude" because it only takes issue with the North's satellite launches while thousands of satellites launched by other countries are already operating in space. She said her country's attempt to acquire a spy satellite is a legitimate step to respond to military threats posed by the US and its allies.

"(North Korea) will continue to take proactive measures to exercise all the lawful rights of a sovereign state, including the one to a military reconnaissance satellite launch," Kim Yo Jong said. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Oil tanker breaks down in Egypt's Suez Canal

Cairo: A tanker transporting crude oil broke down in a single-lane part of Egypt's Suez Canal on Sunday, briefly disrupting traffic in the global waterway, Egyptian authorities said. The Malta-flagged Seavigour suffered a mechanical malfunction at the 12 kilometre mark of the canal, said George Safwat, a spokesperson for Egypt's Suez Canal Authority. The tanker was transiting the canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.

SL's LGBTQ+ community holds Pride march

Colombo: Hundreds of members of Sri Lanka's LGBTQ+ community paraded through the streets of Colombo on Sunday to mark Pride month and demand an end to discrimination. The marchers carried rainbow flags calling for a ban of so-called conversion therapies, an end of police harassment of the LGBTQ+ community and equal treatment. Sri Lanka's laws still consider homosexuality a crime and a bill is pending before Parliament to decriminalise homosexuality.

China landslide toll rises to 19 as rescue work ends

Beijing: All 19 people caught in a landslide in China's Sichuan on Sunday have been confirmed dead, state media reported, announcing the end of rescue efforts. Part of a mountain collapsed at around 6 am near a state-owned forestry station in Jinkouhe, near the city of Leshan, *CCTV* said. The disaster sent mud and debris hurtling towards a construction site operated by a local mining company, where it struck and buried parts of the production and living facilities at the mineshaft platform.

85% is the present shareholding of Walmart in fintech firm PhonePe as the ongoing fundraise has dropped its shareholding from 89%

Investing in mutual funds set to get cheaper for investors

Sebi's new proposal can make equity, debt and hybrid schemes of mutual funds cheaper and investors can fetch better returns in the long term

SACHIN KUMAR @Mumbai

IN its quest to make the mutual fund industry more transparent and reduce the cost of investment for retail investors, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has floated a consultation paper with a raft of proposals related to fees and expenses charged by the Asset Management Companies (AMCs).

In its proposals, the capital market regulator wants mutual funds to cut the cost for investors and bring all the fees and charges under the total expense ratio (TER). If implemented in the current form, the proposal will make investing in the mutual fund a lot cheaper for retail investors and will significantly increase their returns in the long term.

What does Sebi want?

In a consultation paper released last month, Sebi has proposed a uniform TER across mutual fund schemes in a bid to bring transparency in the costs charged to unitholders.

At present, Sebi allows AMCs to charge unitholders of mutual funds four additional types of expenses over and above the specified TER limits. These are brokerage and transaction costs, additional TER for distribution commission for inflows from B-30 (beyond top 30) cities, goods and services taxes and additional expenses for exit loads.

The TER is a percentage of a scheme's corpus that a mutual fund house charges towards expenses including administrative and management. Sebi has proposed that AMCs should include all additional expenses like GST, Securities and Transaction Tax (STT), brokerage and other charges under TER.

Taking note of reports about the underperformance of mutual fund schemes, the regulator has also proposed the concept of performance-based fees for mutual fund schemes. "The move towards performance-based fee structures can drive healthy competition and encourage AMCs to deliver superior results, benefiting investors and the mutual fund industry," Gopal Kavalireddi, Vice President - Research at Fyers told this newspaper.

Reducing cost for investors

One of the significant benefits expected from these proposals is lowering the cost of investing in mutual fund schemes and an increase in the returns for investors in the long-term. With AMCs not allowed to charge fees beyond the limit prescribed by the regulator, several equity, debt and hybrid schemes of the mutual funds may get cheaper after the implementation of the proposals.

"It is anticipated that expenses on certain funds, particularly those managed by larger AMCs and falling under sectoral or thematic categories, will witness a decline. Furthermore, the proposal to incorporate additional charges such as brokerage and taxes within the overall expense ratio limit is expected to curtail the variability experienced beyond the current total expense ratio," Anand Dalmia co-founder and CBO at Fisdom told TNIE.

"The introduction of performance-based fees is another noteworthy proposal, which aims to align expenses with fund performance, ensuring a stronger correlation between value delivered to investors and costs incurred. Overall, investing in mutual funds can be expected to get more cost-effective going ahead," Dalmia added.

The Mutual Fund Industry has grown significantly over the last few years with considerable increase in participation of retail investors. Currently, there are 42 players in the mutual fund industry that manages asset base of over ₹40 lakh crore. The Asset Under Management (AUM) of the MF industry stood at ₹41.62 lakh crore at the end of April this year.

"With the proposed changes, expense ratios will be reduced for mutual fund schemes. Introducing performance-linked expense ratios will incentivise AMCs to deliver better returns to investors. This shift towards a more performance-based fee structure will benefit investors by aligning the charges with the returns," said Kavalireddi.

"Through the proposals in the consultation paper, Sebi aims to facilitate cost effectiveness, greater transparency and accrual of benefits of economies of scale to investors," he added.

Impact on AMCs

Larger AMCs are expected to be affected by the new proposal as they have a higher number of funds surpassing the proposed expense ceiling and experts expect the proposal to level the playing field for large and smaller AMCs.

"The TERs of AMCs with larger Equity AUMs will come down by a few basis points. It could result in lower trail commissions and the profitability of the AMCs as well," Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund told this newspaper. "The smaller AMCs could gain as they would be able to pay out higher commissions to distributors," he added. The mutual fund industry is dominated by a few larger players with the top eight fund houses accounting for around 75% of the total industry AUM at the end of March this year. "The proposed guidelines are likely to result in the rationalisation of expense ratios for numerous funds managed by larger asset management companies. This is due to the fact that larger AMCs tend to have a higher number of funds that surpass the proposed expense ceiling," said Dalmia.

"Conversely, smaller AMCs may find themselves with more flexibility to increase expenses as the proposed ceiling provides them with ample headroom," he added.

Not everyone seems happy with the new plans and some stakeholders have expressed apprehensions about these proposals. "Most retail investors invest in equity mutual funds to benefit from the growth of the Indian economy and companies and the expertise and experience of the fund management team. No one invests with an eye to reduce costs or expenses," said Bagla. "If AMCs start rationalising costs and it results in poorer service and fund performance, the whole move could be counter productive. The unintended consequences could be an overall deterioration in fund quality and performance that could be expensive for the investor in the long run," he added.

GROWING MUTUAL FUND INDUSTRY

₹41.62 lakh crore
AuM of mutual funds industry at the end of April 2023

₹6 lakh crore
AuM of mutual funds industry at the end of March 2012

6.42 crore
The number of SIPs (Systematic Investment Plan) at the end of April 2023

75%
Share of top 8 fund houses in total AUM at the end of March 2023

42 Total number of companies in the mutual fund industry

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF FINANCIAL ADVICE

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India has acted strictly against a section of 'finfluencers'. These are investment experts who use social media to push investment advice. Sebi's recent orders' primary concern is that such people provide advisory services without requisite registration. It is somewhat like prescribing medication for health conditions without certification. In the medical world, such people are called 'quacks'. If you follow any unregistered advisor's advice and incur losses, you have no recourse. Sebi can act against those who are registered intermediaries immediately. To act against an unregistered individual or entity, Sebi has to conduct a lengthy investigation process.

Sebi settled an ongoing investigation against P R Sundar, a YouTube influencer with over a million followers. The regulator barred Sundar from the securities market for one year and asked him to repay fees paid along with interest of ₹6 crore to clients. From a regulator's standpoint, a logical endgame is to punish those involved in violating rules. It is unclear from the Sebi order if people were misinformed or lost money due to the advice put out. It is not easy to establish fraudulent transactions or insider trading activities despite having a digital footprint for all actions in the stock market system. The problem happens with the issue of the 'intent' of such actions. Those are subjective matters, and very difficult to prove in court that the intention was to defraud or cheat anyone.

The Sebi action is similar to that of regulators in other countries. The Securities Exchange Commission in the US also came down hard on social media influencers in December 2022. Even in the US SEC's case, these are still indictments. An outcome is awaited.

What it means to you

As an investor, you need to educate yourself against any misinformation. That is the only way you can protect your wealth. If you do not safeguard your interests, nobody else will. It is an era of information and data. There is so much of that on the internet that you cannot put up an excuse for not knowing anything. Just like you do any other activity regularly, you need to train your mind to read or learn something about personal finance. You do not need to dive deeper into the world of finance. There are certain basics that you need to know. That would help you ringfence your interests in some way. Regulators like the Reserve Bank of India, Sebi, IRDA and the government are constantly putting out information on ways to keep your money safe. When it comes to action, you must take professional help. Personal finance advice is provided by those who are registered with Sebi or RBI, or IRDA. Independent financial advisors must clear examinations and score enough to be registered financial advisors. These professionals help you with financial planning. You can sit with them regularly to identify your financial goals and determine the correct asset allocation. It is essential to have a professional guiding you at every step. However, when you choose such a person, you must ensure they are registered with regulators.

A good professional advisor is helpful to you only if you take an interest in your finances. For that, you must regularly read up about factors influencing your investments. You must ask the right questions to your advisor to make the most of the time you spend with them. If you control the conversation, that will go a long way in helping you create a robust investment portfolio. However, if you are the type who asks the financial advisor to tell you the right thing to do, you will barely cover the basics of investment. When you meet your financial advisor next, you must prepare well. Instead of talking about 'what and where' to invest, focus on a conversation about 'why and when'. Investing needs you to have a team. You must engage a professional advisor for advice but make informed decisions on your terms.

MONEY-WISE

LUMP SUM VS STP: WHICH ONE IS BETTER?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

ONE of the often asked questions in investing is to decide when to invest a sum of money. Whether you have ₹1,000 or ₹10 lakh to invest, the question is:

Should you invest all that money over time (STP, Rupee cost averaging, or as a Lump sum, now, immediately).

- Lump Sum (LS): investing all of your available money at once. This means what we call SIP is just a LS investment done every month. This is because that is the only amount of money available with us for investing at that point in time.
- Rupee Cost Averaging (STP): The act of investing all your available money over time. You can decide over what period of time it should be invested – mostly advisors suggest that the amount be invested over a period of 12 to 24 months.

When you buy periodically into the market (i.e. monthly SIP) you are actually making a small lump sum investment every time you buy.

With LS you invest ₹24,000 (all your funds) in the first month, but with STP you only invest ₹1,000 in the first month and hold the remaining ₹23,000 in cash (say Ultra-short fund or liquid fund) to be invested in equal-sized payments over the next 23 months.

If we know (or assume) that the assets you are investing in will increase in value over time – why not invest immediately. For example you are a person doing a SIP of ₹ 5,000 a month, and you get ₹. 500,000 inheritance from a relative (totally unexpected). Will you do a STP of ₹5,000 over the next 100 months? Your advisor will advise an instalment of ₹40,000 per month over one year. The longer you wait, the worse off you will be, on average.

Risk of a Lump Sum Investment?

So, isn't it riskier to do LS over RCA? The answer to this is a resounding "Yes!" Suppose you have ₹3 crore as the value of your portfolio. Now you have got ₹3 lakh to invest – will you invest it as a lump sum or as STP?

If your answer is 'LS' fine. If your answer is STP, my question to you is –will you sell your full portfolio, realize ₹3 crore and start doing a STP of ₹3,00,000 per month for the next 100 months? Why? Or Why not?

We have to think in terms of 'total risk' not just the risk of the current investments. If your portfolio is ₹2 crore and you inherit ₹23 crore as your share of an inheritance, things may be a bigger challenge.

Funnily, you are taking the same level of RISK. Nothing more, nothing less. An LS investment into a balanced fund with 65% in equity portfolio has the same level of risk as RCA into the Sensex over 24 months, yet the Lump Sum investment is more likely to outperform! You are just re-allocating from debt to equity on a monthly basis, that is all.

So, if you are a disciplined investor who can RCA into a falling market while keeping your cash invested in Ultra Short bond fund/ Treasury Bills, then you might just be better off than doing a Lump Sum investment.

However, if you don't know how you would react to a falling market, or you don't have the discipline to move your cash to Treasury Bills, then please reconsider following a DCA(dollar cost average) strategy.

Go First impact: Airfares at record high, spot fares 10x on some routes

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

Air ticket prices, booked for the same day travel, were exorbitantly expensive on Sunday and on some routes, it was as high as 10 times than normal fares. In many routes, economy class tickets were priced way above what average business class fares were a month ago.

A search on various portals showed that a single flight ticket on economy class from Delhi to Kolkata for the same day travel was priced between ₹17,000 and ₹29,000. The one-way economy flight ticket between Delhi and Chennai was sold for ₹68,000 by Air India. Historical data showed flight ticket prices between Delhi and Chennai hovered around ₹6,000 about a month ago.

Coming to other popular routes, one-way ticket prices from Delhi to Bengaluru were sold between ₹24,000 and ₹40,000 while from Delhi to Hyderabad it was between ₹28,000 and ₹ 52,000. In the busiest route (Delhi to Mumbai), air tickets were priced between ₹15,000-₹30,000 on Sunday. In most cases, carriers such as IndiGo and SpiceJet were offering tickets at prices lower than Tata Group-run airlines Air India and Vistara. Airfares have skyrocketed since the grounding of cash-strapped Go First on May 3. Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had said that they have put together a group to study the spikes. He said, "We are doing a full analysis on these routes and we will speak to our airlines to make sure that fares are within a certain level. We will try our best but it's an issue created by an unforeseen demand-supply imbalance."

AIRFARES FOR SUNDAY (4 JUNE) FLIGHTS

Delhi to Kolkata
₹17,000 (SpiceJet) to ₹29,000 (Air India)

Delhi to Hyderabad
₹28,000 (SpiceJet) to ₹52,000 (Air India)

Chennai to Kolkata:
₹10,000-₹13,000 (IndiGo)

Delhi to Bengaluru
₹24,000 (Akasa) to ₹40,000 (Air India)

Delhi to Chennai
₹68,000 (Air India)

Kolkata to Chennai
₹53,000 (Air India)

Domestic drivers of demand in place: CII president

DIPAK MONDAL @ NEW DELHI

R Dinesh, the newly-elected president of industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and Managing director of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, spoke to TNIE on issues related to economy, manufacturing, private investment and consumption. Here's an excerpt:

On macroeconomic scenario

There are some headwinds, but if you look at the data, three things emerge. One, the significant investment in infrastructure that has created a virtuous cycle. The virtuous cycle that is resulting in more money being available in the hands of the people, therefore, demand has been consistent (demand has actually gone up). More people are coming to India looking at the demand here, and then they start exporting. Because of the domestic demand growth, India is forecast to provide 15% of the global growth, making it clear that India is the bright spot for people to look at. The second side of it is the corporate sector. I think most corporates have improved their balance sheets. The banks have got a very good balance sheet themselves. The third is, as of now, we don't see any negative from the monsoon perspective. That could be the one headwind. So, all the domestic drivers of demand, we believe, are in place.

CII president R Dinesh

On external factors impacting growth

Right now, we expect the grand crisis to not become any worse. We expect that inflation globally will not go up again -- it will stay at the same level. There has been no global crisis immediately after the Central government budget – like we had seen in the past in the form of Covid and geopolitical tensions.

Chances of 8% plus growth

I can say we should do 8% or 10% growth, but we should actually see ground level as well. In the past, we have grown at 6.6% for eight years (2012 to 2020). We don't know if we can grow at 8-9% right now, but we believe 7.5% and above is something we can get to.

Scepticism around manufacturing growth

These are fair concerns, but I see manufacturing as an opportunity. If you look at the market per se, the domestic demand will mean that more and more people will come to invest in India. And as they invest here, these companies would also look at neighbouring countries (if not all over the world) as their possible export market. I am not calling this China plus one strategy because I don't think we should look at it that way. India is standalone on its own.

On PLI schemes

I think anything which supports immediate investments to take place in India is welcome. And therefore, PLI is one of the methods. It has been very clearly articulated that PLI is only a short-term measure.

On bilateral trade agreements

We want more FTAs to be signed. India's industry has to be competitive. We are becoming more competitive with more investments in manufacturing and capacity building, it gives us an opportunity to be a good export destination.

Benzema to leave Real, Saudi likely destination

Karim Benzema has agreed a deal to leave Real Madrid, the Spanish giants said on Sunday, with strong interest in the ex-France striker reportedly coming from Saudi Arabia. Saudi state television channel *Al-Ekhbariya* claims the 35-year-old had signed with Jeddah-based Al-Ittihad, to feature against former Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo next season.

Wrestlers meet Home Minister, decide to hold mahapanchayat soon

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

INDIA'S top wrestlers, who are protesting against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the sidelined chief of the Wrestling Federation of India, met Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday night. It is learnt that Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik along with two-time World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat had a meeting with Shah at his residence in New Delhi. The meeting lasted for more than an hour.

"The meeting started at around 11PM. It continued till midnight. The wrestlers put forward their demands before Shah who assured them that the probe will be impartial," a source in the know things told this daily. Notably, the wrestlers met Shah in the past as well. A day before their march towards the new Parliament on May 28, Sakshi, along with her husband Satyawart Kadian and a few Khap leaders, had met Shah. However, the meeting could not fetch desired results as wrestlers tried to breach the security cordon put in place at Jantar Mantar the next day. The Delhi police later detained all the protesting wrestlers and even registered FIRs against them. The protest site was also cleared barring the grapplers to return to the place to continue the protest. "Wrestlers once again demanded immediate arrest of Brij Bhushan but the Home Minister told them that arrest could only be made by police after completion of the investigation," added the source.

Wrestlers' mahapanchayat

Meanwhile, a mahapanchayat was held in Mundlana, Sonepat (Haryana) on Sunday to express solidarity with protesting wrestlers. Bajrang attended the meeting. Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Chaudhary, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, Bharat Rashtra Kisan Samithi's Gurnam Singh Chaduni and others also attended mahapanchayat.

Speaking on the occasion, Bajrang urged the Khap leaders and farmer organisations not to hold multiple mahapanchayats. "Bajrang said these panchayats are sending wrong messages and developing a perception that the wrestlers have been pushed to the background. He instead announced that the wrestlers will soon hold a mahapanchayat to discuss the future course of action," said a source who attended the mahapanchayat.

Bajrang, who has also won multiple medals at the Worlds, said the date and venue of the wrestlers' mahapanchayat will be announced soon. The source claimed that Sonepat could be the venue.

RAVI PULLS OUT, NO MEDALS IN FREESTYLE

Olympic silver medallist wrestler Ravi Dahiya on Sunday pulled out of the Bishkek Ranking Series event due to a knee strain. Other freestyle wrestlers in action could not finish on the podium. In Ravi's 61kg weight category, Pankaj reached the bronze medal round but lost the bout. Similarly, Mulayam Yadav (70kg) also lost the bronze medal bout. India did not have entries in 57kg, 74kg, 79kg and 92kg competitions. The country's wrestlers won four medals in the tournament. Manisha won 65kg gold, Reetika bagged 72kg silver while Sarita Mor returned with 59kg bronze on Saturday. Greco-Roman grappler Manjeet had won bronze in 55kg.

FILE PIC

TWEAK IN THE TALE

With spinners' record at Oval, India will hope to get combination right

GOMESH S @Chennai

TEST BOWLING RECORD AT THE VENUE				
Period	Pace avg	Spin avg	Difference	
Overall	33.34	35.99	-2.65	
Since 2015	26.98	24.76	2.22	
Bowler	Mat	Overs	Wkts	Avg
Ashwin	1	21.3	3	24
Jadeja	2	124	11	31.27
Lyon	3	104.3	9	30.77

THE last time they were in England for the summit clash of the World Test Championship against New Zealand — the match was played at Southampton — weather had a significant say in the proceedings. One of the key talking points, back then, after India's defeat to the Black Caps, was the playing XIs the two teams had fielded. The Kane Williamson-led side had gone in with an all out pace/seam attack while the then captain Virat Kohli fielded two spinners — R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja — despite the first day getting washed out due to rain.

Calling the experienced duo as all-condition bowlers, Indian team management had stuck to their best XI possible that gave them depth in the batting. In hindsight, they might be wanting to do things differently as the spinners had very little help through the game. The way they approached their overseas XIs since then said it all. Jadeja was largely a regular while Ashwin was drafted in and out depending on conditions and opponents.

Two years on, as India are getting ready to launch another attempt for an ICC title, the question is back as well. Do they go with two spinners in the final against Australia at The Oval on June 7 or stick to what they have done whilst touring outside Asia in the last couple of years — play one of Ashwin/Jadeja along with Shardul Thakur with Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Umesh Yadav/Jaydev Unadkat forming the pace trio. With Australia likely to have at least 3-4 left-handers, it might all come down to the conditions in play.

Now, this is where the conundrum gets more nuanced. Unlike the other venues in England, The Oval arguably has the most subcontinental version (or so to say) of surface to offer. The numbers suggest the same. While pacers (33.34) average 2.65 less than spinners (35.99) in all the Test matches at the venue, since 2015, spinners (24.76) average 2.22 less than the pacers (26.98). Ashwin averages 24 at the Oval in one game while Jadeja averages 31.27 in two. The left-arm spinner had to cope with some extra workload, holding one end up when India were a bowler short in 2018. Their Australian counterpart, Nathan Lyon, too has welcome returns at the venue: 9 wickets in three games at 30.77.

Purely based on this, it could be a no-brainer for India to play both, especially in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, their premium pacer. However, there is more to it. All three games India have played at the venue since 2014 have been in August or after. The Oval hardly host matches in the beginning of an English summer. In fact, the impact spinners have been able to make in the three first division county games here this season is minuscule, to say the least. That said, it also comes down to the quality of the spinners and there is no contest regarding that when it comes to the Indian duo.

To sum it up, all eyes will be on Rohit Sharma & Co as they have an important decision to make that could potentially have a significant impact on the result of the game. So much that even Australian team management has been "debating" about it. Their assistant coach Daniel Vettori had told local media last week that they expect Jadeja to play because of his role with the bat. "Ashwin is an incredible bowler and he will be first choice in most teams, and just with their combinations it may lead to that (him missing selection)," he had said.

What will India do, one will have to wait and see. But do not be surprised if they go with their best XI, with two world-class spinners tasked with controlling the pace of play.

Neser replaces injured Hazlewood

ICC WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2023

2 DAYS TO GO

LONDON: Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was on Sunday ruled out of the World Test Championship final after failing to recover from the side strain he picked up during his IPL stint, dealing a huge blow to his side ahead of the marquee match against India. Pacer Michael Neser replaced Hazlewood in the squad as the selectors hoped that the latter will recover to be fit for the Ashes series. "Josh was very, very close to being given the green light but we are cognisant that our upcoming schedule means this is not a one-off Test match for us," Chair of Selectors George Bailey was quoted as saying in cricket.com.au.

Michael Neser

IN ENGLAND, YOU NEVER FEEL IN: ROHIT

LONDON: His only Test hundred outside the subcontinent came at the Oval in 2021 and India captain Rohit Sharma says one never feels "in" as a batter in English conditions but somehow develops an intuition as to when to attack the opposition. "One thing I realised in 2021, you are never in (set) and the weather keeps changing. You need to keep concentrating for longer periods of time and you will get that intuition when it's time to take on the bowlers."

Green hopes to bring in Rohit's calmness in final

BECKENHAM: Australia all-rounder Cameron Green hopes to bring the calmness of Rohit Sharma into his game, having spent a quality time with the India captain in the Mumbai Indians dug out in IPL. Green, with 452 runs and six wickets, played a key role in MI's campaign this season under Rohit's captaincy, even though the five-time champions were eventually knocked out in Qualifier 2.

"The calmness he (Rohit) has out in the middle is so evident," Green told ICC ahead of the WTC Final against India at The Oval, starting June 7. "He's obviously been there and done that for 10 years. To be out there with him and just talk through a situation was awesome."

Going offline helps Rezoana clinch 400m gold in Asian U-20 C'ship

GOMESH S @Chennai

WHEN Rezoana Mallick Heena clocked 53.31 seconds to win 400m gold — her first international medal at junior level — on the opening day of the Asian U-20 Athletics Championship in Yecheon (Korea), halfway across the world her coach Arjun Ajay was beaming with pride in Bengaluru. That the 16-year-old won gold came as no surprise to him to the extent that he was focussing more on her timings.

Arjun expected Heena to finish at 52.5-52.7, but he understands the reasons behind the extra half second. After all, Heena was up at 5 am in the morning on Sunday (local time), and Arjun by 2 am Indian time to be in constant touch with her. It was the first time he had not been with her during a meet. "The thing is the hotel is one hour and 15 minutes away. After finishing in the morning, she had to go back to eat and sleep. She came back in the evening again, so three hours and 45 minutes she had to travel before the final. A senior athlete can manage that but some restlessness will be there for the junior athlete that is why she caught up a little stiff in the end," Arjun told this daily from Bengaluru.

Having scouted the sprinter through social media from a small town in Nadia district of West Bengal, Heena had been training with Arjun since November 2021. The duo has worked together since then, with her training largely happening in the hill station Ooty, Tamil Nadu. Why Ooty, the challenges that come with the altitude, the pure air and lesser local travel compared to the metro cities. Considering her young age, Arjun has kept her training light and not pushed her too hard and too fast. "Since she is young, we just ask her to enjoy the race. We have to take into consideration the age of an athlete, body, speed and strength, sprint mechanics, correcting the footing, ground contact, arm action, core strength, etc. We try to keep the training light and smart, focussing on the specifics."

Rezoana Mallick Heena

The interesting bit here is that contrary to how her talent was spotted — via Instagram — Heena has been away from not just social media, but mobile phone in itself since she started training with Arjun. "Initially, it was difficult. She likes reels, movies, etc. So much so that she had blocked me on WhatsApp to ensure I don't notice if she stays awake late. Then we spoke to her parents and decided not to use phone when training. Her parents call me to speak with her. YouTube videos of races, movies we watch as a team apart, she is completely off social media," said the coach.

While Arjun always expected her to win gold, having brought down her timings to 52.98 with their training in Ooty, he strongly believes that if he was there at the meet, she might have been even more quicker. He even expects Heena to better the record in the inter-state meet. Meanwhile, Bharatpreet Singh clinched gold in discuss throw and Antima Pal won bronze in women's 5000m race as India finished Sunday in the second spot with Japan taking the top position (3 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze).

FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic and Alcaraz sail into quarterfinals

AFP @Paris

NOVAK Djokovic and World No 1 Carlos Alcaraz swept into the French Open quarterfinals on Sunday.

Third seed Djokovic, who is chasing a record 23rd men's Grand Slam singles title at Roland Garros, ended the surprise run of Peruvian outsider Juan Pablo Varillas in straight sets. Djokovic, a two-time champion in Paris, won 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 against the 94th-ranked Varillas to book a meeting with Russia's Karen Khachanov, the 11th seed who overcame Lorenzo Sonego in four sets.

Later, Alcaraz, the No 1 seed, matched Djokovic to beat Lorenzo Musetti of Italy by same score.

Djokovic, who reaced the French Open quarters for the 14th straight year, was pleased with his performance. "I had never played my opponent before. I knew he was a clay court specialist and that I had to earn the victory. It was the best I played this week," said Djokovic.

The 36-year-old has yet to drop a set through four rounds. He is into a record 17th French Open quarterfinal after making the last eight at a Major for the 55th time. "I am very proud of this record. I have put a lot of effort into my game and I am very motivated to continue," he added.

Meanwhile, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the 2021 runner-up, became the first woman through to the quarterfinals after rallying from a set and a break down to dump out Belgian 28th seed Elise Mertens 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

SELECT RESULTS (RD 4)

Men: Novak Djokovic (SRB x3) bt Juan Pablo Varillas (PER) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Karen Khachanov (x11) bt Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-1; Carlos Alcaraz (ESP x1) bt Lorenzo Musetti (ITA x17) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. **Women:** Karolina Muchova (CZE) bt Elina Avanesyan 6-4, 6-3; Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova bt Elise Mertens (BEL x28) 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

EXPRESS READ

Abhinav, Gautami combine to win gold

SUHL: Indian shooters Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw claimed the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here. The Indians shot a total of 17 in the gold medal contest. Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere of France won the silver medal. Norway's Pernille Nor-Woll and Jens Olsrud Oestli finished third.

Double delight for sprinter Amlan

NEW DELHI: Sprinter Amlan Borgohain bagged two gold medals — one each in 100m and 200m — at the Flanders Cup athletics meet in Merksem, Belgium. Borgohain clocked 10.70s to emerge as the fastest man of the meet. He holds the 100m national record of 10.25s. In the 200m, the 25-year-old Borgohain clocked 20.96s to emerge winner.

Aditi tied second in Mizuho Americas Open

JERSEY CITY (US): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok stayed in contention for the title as she carded 4-under 68 on the third day of the Mizuho Americas Open on the LPGA Tour here. Despite a late bogey on a chilly and cloudy day, the 25-year-old was tied second behind the 20-year-old Rose Zhang, who is making her debut as a pro at the Liberty National Golf Club.

Formula One: Verstappen extends title lead in Spain

AFP @Montmelo (Spain)

DEFENDING double world champion Max Verstappen extended his lead in this year's title race to 53 points on Sunday when he completed a hat-trick by driving his Red Bull to a masterful victory in the Spanish Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Dutchman led from lights to flag to come home 24 seconds ahead of revitalised seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and George Russell, in their much-improved Mercedes' cars. It was Verstappen's third consecutive win, his third in Spain, his fifth in seven races this season.

Max Verstappen celebrates after winning the Spanish GP | AFP

BIG SHIFT

Messi bids farewell to Paris Saint-Germain amid boos

AGENCIES @Paris

LIONEL MESSI didn't care about the boos in his final game for Paris Saint-Germain as the French league champion lost to Clermont 3-2 on Saturday.

Disrespectful PSG supporters booed Messi when the Parc des Princes announcer read his name on a warm evening. A few minutes later, Messi walked onto the field with a smile on his face, holding his three children's hands before the team photo and kissing them on their foreheads before kickoff. "I would like to thank the club, the city of Paris and its people for these two years. I wish you all the best for the future," Messi told the club website. In two seasons at PSG, Messi won two French leagues and the French Champions Trophy and notched 32 goals and 35 assists in all competitions. Messi scored in a 1-1 draw at Strasbourg a week ago to help PSG clinch a record-extending 11th French league title. By notching a 496th career league goal, he also broke Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues. The World Cup winner didn't sign the contract extension that Qatar-backed PSG offered him and has been strongly linked with a move to a Saudi club where he could earn more money than Ronaldo.

Lionel Messi (R) and Sergio Ramos after the match against Clermont | AFP

Messi tried hard to get on the scoresheet on the final day of the French league. He had a shot parried by Clermont goalkeeper Mory Diaw in the 14th minute, hit a snapshot wide in the 31st and curled a free kick over the bar in the 42nd.

A selfless Kylian Mbappe made a solo run in the 54th to tee up Messi, who blazed over the bar. Messi nearly found the net in the 59th but Diaw turned his low drive around the post. Diaw denied Messi again in stoppage time, palming away a free kick. After the final whistle, Messi hugged his teammates and shook hands with the Clermont players. PSG took a 2-0 lead with a header from the departing Sergio Ramos in the 16th and a penalty from Mbappe in the 21st.

But Clermont leveled before halftime with goals by Johan Gatien and Mehdi Zeffane. Grejohn Kyei scored the winner by converting a cross in the 63rd.

FUTURE OF PG/MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

WHAT NEP MEANS FOR TRADITIONAL DEGREES

Examining the evolving significance of PG courses and prospects of master's degrees with CUET PG on the horizon

SAUMYANGI YADAV

With major changes being introduced to the education system under the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, especially in higher education, the way people perceive and understand master programmes is evolving as well.

Under the newly introduced four-year undergraduate course (FYUP) with flexible entry and exit options, the main focus has been on holistic learning. However, the new implementations bring up a few questions—How would it change the relevance of post-graduate (PG) programmes? What is the future of the conventional (3+2) college education system?

PG courses to be less 'rigid'

Experts establish that the new implementations will not undermine the relevance of PG courses, but make it less 'rigid' in nature.

M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) emphasised that the FYUP has been introduced to promote flexibility and create alternative paths for higher education and shall not replace the need for specialised, advanced and professional PG degrees.

For example, a two-year master's course can have the second year devoted to research. There may be an integrated five-year bachelor's and master's programme that already exists. "All these combinations of PG degrees will be valuable to students undertaking research along with boosting employment opportunities," Kumar explained.

Future of conventional higher studies

Educationists have contrasting views when it comes to the future of 3+2 higher education system. While few opine that the FYUP would not have any major effect on the same, others believe that the relevance of two-year PG programmes might get affected in the long run.

new course

Prof BJ Rao, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad (UoH), said, "Self-standing two-year master's programme will become less relevant with time because of the four-year UG programme. If you do well in the FYUP, as it involves internships, training and a fair amount of flexibility in learning, the UG programme will be good in quality and a student can move to PhD programmes or professions directly."

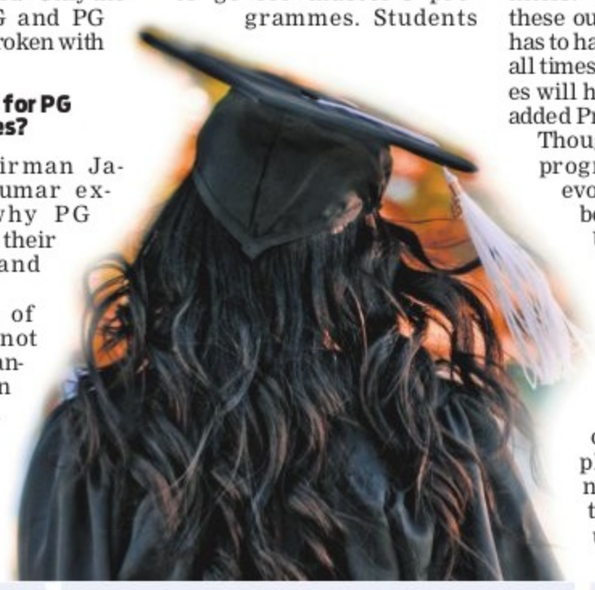
On the other hand, others have an opinion that PG programmes will still continue to be relevant and have a number of takers, even after the new system has been implemented. Prof Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore City University, explained "Only the wall between UG and PG courses has been broken with the new system."

When to opt for PG programmes?

UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar explained why PG courses have their own appeal and importance.

"The purpose of seeking a PG is not limited to getting another degree in higher education. Expertise gained through PG makes learners stand out in the competitive job market. PG courses bring like-minded individuals and experts together, which further helps establish good networks," the UGC Chairman said.

But when should one opt for PG programmes? "When one wants to seek deeper knowledge, especially research and academia, they can still choose to go for master's programmes. Students can take up the four-year programme and make the choice at the end of two years or three years as well," explains Prof Lingaraja Gandhi.



Educationists added that the new system has given an option to the students — whether or not they want to pursue PG irrespective of the job opportunities. "There will always be these outliers and the system has to have space for outliers at all times. That is why PG courses will have their own takers," added Prof BJ Rao.

Though the meaning of PG programmes is going to evolve with new changes being introduced by the UGC, the demand for PG professionals might differ from industry to industry.

"Industries that are involved in research and development such as healthcare, medicines, pharmaceuticals, engineering, science and technology highly value candidates with PG. Not only these, but even academia and teaching require a deeper understanding of subjects which one can develop during PG studies," explained the UGC chairman.

Skills versus a degree

Even before the introduction of FYUP and NEP 2020, there has been a decrease in takers for PG programmes, especially in professional courses like engineering. Students in these streams often opt for short-term 'upskilling' certificate courses to get higher packages.

But can skills be considered over a PG degree? Experts say that with the changing industry requirements, recruiters have been considering skills and experience over a degree.

"Ultimately, a recruiter looks for skills and people who can deliver. If they see that a person who has pursued these short-term courses and has acquired skills, they might prefer it over a degree. In this way, there will be a significant change in outlook, in fact, it is already happening," opined Prof BJ Rao, VC, University of Hyderabad.

On the other hand, there has been a special focus on skills under the NEP 2020, say experts. In the FYUPs, students are exposed to much more than domain knowledge which will make them industry-ready.

"Under the four-year UG programmes, skill-enhancement, ability-enhancement and open elective courses are weaved into the curriculum which goes beyond the knowledge of the subject domain and also focuses on attitude, skills, values and so on. So, with graduation, they are empowered enough to pursue a profession," explained Prof Lingaraja Gandhi.

What do the young professionals say?

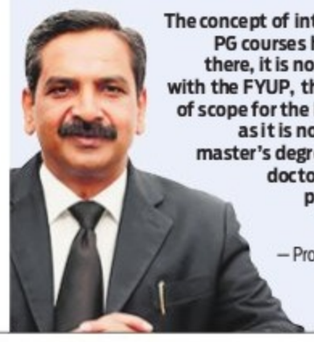
Working professionals, who opted out of the PG race and chose to pursue a career right after their UG degree, also say that it is becoming increasingly common among students to not take up PG courses right after their bachelor's degree.

"With the right skills, you can showcase your capabilities in interviews. Many people choose to go for PG programmes after one or two years of industry experience," said Aditya Mundada, a software engineer currently working in Bengaluru.

"In marketing, people see how good you are at communicating and handling situations rather than a degree. Experience also plays a major role and it guarantees higher positions and higher pay in the field," said Rakshita Kumar, a growth marketer.

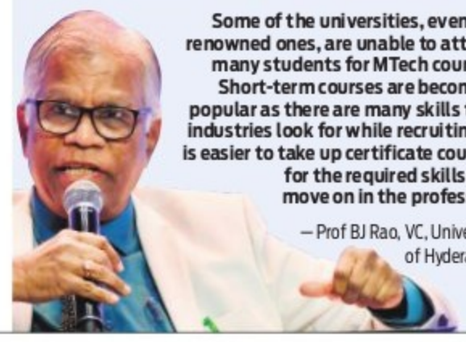
Along with enhancing knowledge and expertise, PG courses help boost career opportunities. It provides learners with avenues to research and innovate, enabling them to acquire a deeper understanding of their subject. With the recently introduced FYUP, PG courses' nature may evolve

— M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC



The concept of integrated UG and PG courses has always been there, it is nothing new. Even with the FYUP, there will be a lot of scope for the PG programmes as it is not just limited to master's degrees but also has doctoral and diploma programmes and beyond as well

— Prof Lingaraja Gandhi, VC, Bangalore City University



Some of the universities, even the renowned ones, are unable to attract many students for MTech courses. Short-term courses are becoming popular as there are many skills that industries look for while recruiting. It is easier to take up certificate courses for the required skills and move on in the profession

— Prof BJ Rao, VC, University of Hyderabad

Yes, short-term courses can provide a similar level of skillset on par with a degree. It does not matter if you have a master's degree or not. If a person wants to learn React (JavaScript Library) or Angular (JavaScript Framework), he or she can opt for good courses and become well-versed in them

— Aditya Mundada, IT Professional

I want to stay in the marketing field but I have not planned to pursue my master's. In my opinion, experience is the best learning and more experience can guarantee higher pay. Maybe a master's degree will have better value but with a professional diploma too you can gain enough and reach that level

— Rakshita Kumar, Growth Marketer

One Country, One Exam

A LOOK AT STANDARDISED TESTING IN EDUCATION SYSTEMS ABROAD

Standardised central exams have been an integral part of educational systems of various countries, aiming to streamline the college admissions process and create a level playing field for students. As UGC seeks to consolidate multiple exams into one in the near future, it is worth exploring four other nations, whose Global Opportunity Index, 2017-2021 was ranked by Milken Institute who have also successfully implemented similar centralised testing

SAT AND ACT

- SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) and ACT (American College Testing) are standardised exams primarily used for college admissions in the United States of America (Global Opportunity Index Rank 3)
- These exams are not centralised exams administered by a government authority but are conducted by independent organisations
- Both the exams are conducted multiple times throughout the year
- SAT and ACT exams assess students' knowledge and skills in reading, writing and Math. ACT includes an additional Science and English section
- Scores from SAT and ACT are accepted by various universities outside the USA, including Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, and Hong Kong

GAOKAO

- Gaokao, also known as the National College Entrance Examination, is the standardised entrance examination used for university admissions in China (Global Opportunity Index rank 34)
- It is administered by the Ministry of Education in China and held in June
- Gaokao is a standardised test format, covering different subjects and is administered uniformly across different provinces in China
- Gaokao scores are generally not directly accepted by universities in other countries for admission purposes

CSAT

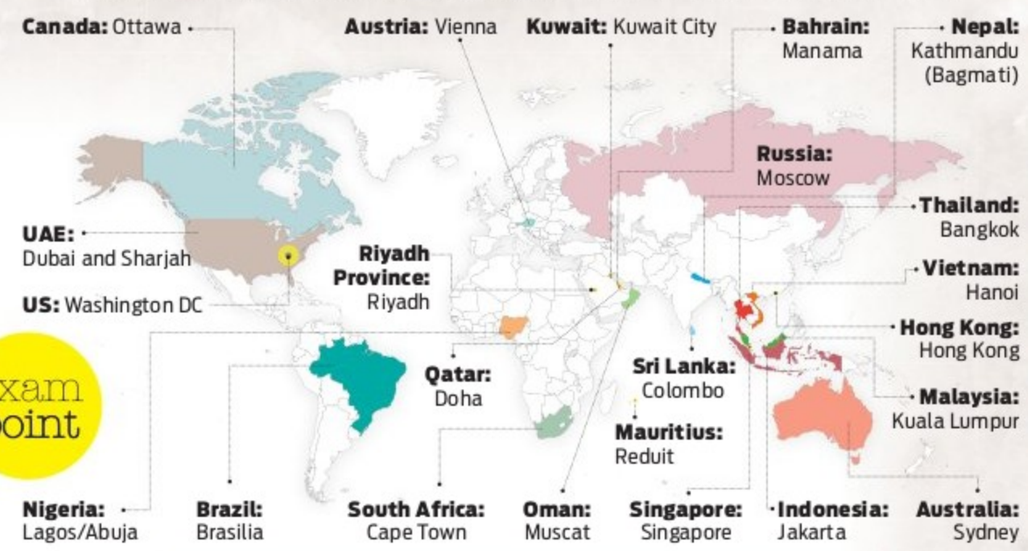
- CSAT (College Scholastic Ability Test), also known as Suneung, is a standardised test in South Korea taken by students in their final year of high school for undergraduate admission (Global Opportunity Index Rank 19)
- It covers a wide range of subjects like Gaokao, and is administered by the Korean Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), an agency of the government
- The test is usually conducted in the month of November
- CSAT is primarily used for domestic university admissions within South Korea

CENTER TEST

- Japan's National Center Test is a standardised examination for the university admission process (Global Opportunity Index Rank 9)
- The exam is administered by the National Center for University Entrance Examinations (NCUEE), an independent organisation operating under the jurisdiction of the National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation (NIAD-UE)
- Usually held in January over a period of two days
- It consists of multiple-choice questions and covers subjects like Japanese language, Math, Science and more
- Center Test scores are primarily used for university admissions within Japan

— Compiled by Mrittika Banerjee

EXAM CENTRES ABROAD FOR CUET PG



exam point

LIST OF NEW UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR

In 2022, only 42 universities participated in CUET PG 2022. This time it's 169! Here's the list of universities that joined during April-May, after the CUET PG 2023 information bulletin was released:

● ITM University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh ● ITM Vocational University, Vadodara, Gujarat ● ITM Skills University, Mumbai, Maharashtra ● ICFAI University, Jharkhand ● ICFAI University, Tripura ● Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru, Karnataka ● DAV University, Jalandhar, Punjab ● Ram Krishna Dharmarth Foundation (RKDF) University, Ranchi, Jharkhand ● Guru Kashi University, Bathinda, Punjab ● Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu ● University of Technology, Jaipur, Rajasthan ● IILM University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh ● IILM University, Gurugram, Haryana ● Peoples University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh ● Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh ● Rama University, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh ● Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai, Tamil Nadu ● Jamshedpur Women's University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand ● MVN University, Palwal, Haryana ● Hi Tech Institute of Engineering and Technology (affiliated to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh ● Dr Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh ● Jain College of Engineering (affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University), Belagavi, Karnataka ● Siddharth University, Kapilvastu, Uttar Pradesh ● Ranchi University, Ranchi, Jharkhand ● Amity University, Patna, Bihar ● Amity University, Jharkhand ● Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

All your questions, answered

The Central University Entrance Test - Postgraduate (CUET PG) starts today and will go on till June 12. The results will tentatively be declared by July first week. In that context, here are a few FAQs, answered.

Q What can a candidate do in case of technical glitches at the centre?
"In case of any technical problems with the computer at the exam centre due to which you are not able to continue the exam, inform the invigilator. He/ She would fix the issue or will map you to another PC through a proper process," says National Testing Agency (NTA).

Q How will the final scorecard be prepared?
NTA will use the final key to prepare the scores. Percentile equivalence will be used to determine the scores. This means that the highest-scoring candidates will get 100th percentile, and the candidates who score lower will be given percentiles accordingly, with reference to the 100 percentile.

query time

Q What if one has attempted multiple papers?
Actual marks in different shifts/sessions will be converted to NTA score, which will be calculated using the percentile equivalent.

Q How will the final results be prepared?
NTA will prepare the scorecard only, which will be shared with all the participating universities. "After that, the admission exercise (including counselling) shall be handled by the participating Universities/ Institutions officials only," NTA explains.

Q How will varsities prepare a merit list?
Universities can draw the merit list "based on total score or only on the score achieved in Part II the Domain Knowledge Section," says NTA.

Q What is a good score for CUET PG?
A suitable CUET PG score can be roughly pegged at the 40th percentile for the unreserved category and the 35th percentile for the reserved category.

switch paths

Shifting focus from PG

While the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to make postgraduate (PG) less 'rigid' in the future, students' interest has already been shifting from the two-year master's programme to shorter and more skill-focused certificate courses, professional diplomas and post-graduate diplomas.

"There is a lot of emphasis on industry exposure, internships, industry-academia partnership plus many work-integrated programmes are being curated. Even as per reports and our experience, an average person in a technical course has an employability rate of 42% while for a non-technical graduate, it might be as low as 20-22%," Sumit Kumar, CBO, TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship, an HR services company.

Phalgun Kompalli, Co-founder of upGrad, an online education company that provides upskilling courses, said, "People are now evaluating the opportunity cost of two-year campus education seriously. Very few people have the luxury to say that I will drop everything and spend ₹20-40 lakh on an MBA or any master's degree on campus."

Here come new chances

Few industries have also started to collaborate with higher education institutes and EdTech platforms to provide their employees an opportunity to pursue 'on-the-job master's programmes'.

Dr Sriram KV, Associate Director, Industry Liaison Placement and Practice School at Manipal Institute of Technology, explained, "We run a programme with a Bengaluru-based company, wherein, our teachers go there and teach the employees. Even companies these days look at educating their employees so that they do not leave the company."

Beyond PG

Thinking beyond PG? Discover dynamic pathways in India and abroad. From government service exams to certificate course

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS

Civil Services Examination (CSE) and State Public Service Commissions (PSC): Serve in top positions like IAS, IPS and so on

Staff Selection Commission (SSC): Open doors to Group B and Group C non-gazetted posts in central government departments and organisations

Banking Exams and Railway Recruitment Board (RRB): Explore opportunities in the banking sector and diverse roles in the Indian Railway

Defence Exams and Intelligence Bureau Assistant Central Intelligence Officer (IB ACIO): Join the armed forces through exams like CDS and NDA

PURSUE PG ABROAD

Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Unlock global opportunities and apply to countries like the United States and Canada

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT): Gain admission to business-related graduate courses, including MBA

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Measures the English language proficiency of non-native English speakers

International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Also an English proficiency test

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Certificate courses: Enhance your skills through specialised online certificate courses offered by platforms like Udemy and Coursera

Internship/Apprenticeship: Look for opportunities through LinkedIn, Internshala or seniors to gain practical experience

Freelancing: Embrace the freedom of independent work and leverage your expertise

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL): TEFL certification opens doors to teach English or enhance job prospects

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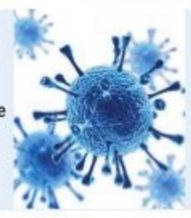
DAY'S DIARY

First report of AIDS

On this day in 1981, five cases of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) were reported in Los Angeles, United States

PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA

The article, titled 'Pneumocystis Pneumonia Los Angeles', marked the first official report of what would later be named AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)



LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

Scientists and physicians struggled to understand what caused the disease and how it spread – making the process of finding a treatment all the more challenging

ACTIVISTS DRIVE EARLY RESPONSE

Black gay and lesbian organisations, meanwhile, fought back through poster campaigns against misconceptions that AIDS primarily affected White gay men

Check out what's happening in the city
PG 2

From shopping fasts to cutting down on long showers...Five prominent B'lureans share with **Dese Gowda** the little something they are doing to save the planet on World Environment Day

OUR EARTH, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

RICKY KEJ, musician

All of my music has been about promoting environmental consciousness. When it comes to my own life, I follow four principles: I do not subscribe to fast fashion, follow a meat-free diet, use public transport as much as possible and have my carbon footprint audited so that I lessen my burden on the environment. At any given point of time, I only have 11 sets of clothes. I buy good quality clothes, and I reuse them all the time. In February, I bought a cream-coloured shervani for the Grammy awards. For every concert since then, I have been wearing the same outfit. It's about setting an example that fashion can be fashionable more than once.

SATYA SANKARAN, bicycle mayor

My main focus has been reducing consumption and living a minimalist lifestyle. Whether it is buying less stuff or commuting less, every time I do something, I think about its impact.

SHUBRA AIYAPPA, actor

I used to be a big-time shopper. And I had this idea that being an actor, I needed many outfits and accessories. But in the last two years, as I came to realise what is happening with the environment, I have become more mindful about my fashion choices. I haven't shopped for over a year. It's my step towards being a little more conscious about the environment. The other aspect I have cut down on is long showers. I've switched to bucket baths because it's much easier to measure the water I am consuming. Having seen the adverse effects of excessive consumerism and what's been happening in the name of development, I worry about how it's going to affect us and future generations.

SAHAR MANSOOR, entrepreneur

All of us know we don't have very many years left to prevent a climate catastrophe. At this crossroads, with so much at stake, we have no option but to act. It would be great if everyone took sustainability seriously. As an entrepreneur, I am interested in transitioning towards sustainable practices. It's important to be mindful of your actions. You don't have to do everything overnight. But if you can start incorporating a few things, the impact adds up.

RANJANI RAGHAVAN, actor

I don't use plastic at all. That is one thing I strictly follow. Wherever I see people littering, I make an effort to dispose of it properly. When I was in college, I used to use public transport, but now it is difficult. The more we use public transport, the less emission we produce. These days, everyone is aware of the impact of the climate crisis, and the steps needed to be taken to mitigate it. But people do not take action. Everybody can contribute a little and make a difference.

Veena Jain and Minnku Buttar | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

HOPE & HAPPINESS

Minnku Buttar has co-authored a book on hope and humanity which was recently launched by Mrs India Globe Veena Jain

AMODINI BHAT

IN an era where hope often remains underplayed and misunderstood, author Minnku Buttar presents a different narrative, emphasising hope as the divine energy capable of leading individuals from darkness to light. She is set to captivate readers with the launch of the book, *Mission Hope*. "This is a collaboration with my publisher in the US, and my editor, Charlotte Murphy and Dominic Domaschke. We are 18 authors worldwide, and I am the only one represented from India," says Buttar about the book that was released on Friday. Veena Jain, Mrs India Globe was also present on the occasion.

The presentation of the book in itself has a deliberate meaning which the author explains in detail. "Green is the colour of resurrection. Green is the projection of everything around us that has a purpose and a possibility of growth. So if we are looking at something that regenerates itself, it has to be green," she says.

Exploring the power of hope, the author delves into the depths of human emotions, shedding light on its transformative potential in the face of anxiety and depression that plagues modern society. Buttar says, "We are on a mission to inspire humanity to be good. Kindness, unconditional love, empathy, and unconditional support... If we can give all of this to each other, the power struggles in the world will diminish."

Through the book, the author narrates her own story. "I have traced my own personal journey that is steeped in love, resurrection, and hope. So my trajectory has been captured in the book, but I've also explored concepts with quotes from Osho, Nisargadatta Maharaj and Kahlil Gibran. So one fascinating fact that you will find in this book that has my pre-blossoming and then the post-blossoming journey is the idea that we are always chasing the next moment. We need to pause and take a step back," she says.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win a discount voucher worth ₹2,000 from Burma Burma**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Imam Bayildi 2) Banchan 3) Cucumber

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1)Shefali 2) Hitesh G 3) B Sivasubramanian

IF ART COULD SAVE THE PLANET
P3

CITY READ

Indian institutions participate in global education conference

The Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI), in collaboration with COMEK and supported by AICTE, established 'India Pavilion' at the 75th NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo in Washington DC, United States. The initiative offered global education providers an opportunity to explore the merits of the Indian education system. The conference serves as a prominent platform for networking and connecting Indian institutions with counterparts from over 120 countries, engaging with more than 12,000 delegates representing 3,000 universities and institutions. The India Pavilion featured several esteemed higher education institutions, including Alliance University, Banasthali Vidyapith, Chaitanya – deemed to be University, and others.

Hartwig and Beate Renninger

A MIXED BAG OF EXPERIENCES

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

THE week has left me with plenty of revelations. My 'other-half' went through minor corrective surgeries to his eyes which left him feeling...vulnerable you think? Most certainly not! It's the female of the species who learn to bite our tongue because of some old superstition that women can bear all the crap in the world. In fact we are prepared to take all this baloney because the 'mistresses-of-spices' before us made it sound like a virtue! But the male species have an internal mechanism that will urge you with untiring importunity, on how to serve them better!

I agree the timings of the drops to be administered are quite convoluted, but, to set alarms so that the rest of the household will fly to his aid is quite ludicrous. And yet...we do it!

I arrived fashionably late to my good friend Hartwig Renniger's fiftieth birthday at the Ritz Carlton. Hartwig and Beate are a German couple whose love affair with 'most things Indian' spans over a decade. Though I always rib 'Hartwig' that his is the most German sounding name I know, his demeanour is most unlike a precision-driven German and more like a 'swalpa adjust madi' Indian. Friends, both European and Indian, gathered to join in the festivities and let him know that they all cared. It was heartening to see old and new friends just letting their hair down and enjoying themselves. Sometimes one wants to do the simple things in life without any agendas. Conversations were happening in different corners, guffaws were heard over a badly-relayed joke, posing and preening for keepsake photographs...pure, simple, and undiluted fun. I love the way some of the expats have so seamlessly amalgamated into our way of life. The slight head nod, the stress on certain words that is so quintessentially Indian and the total immersion into Indian food. The more the chillies, the better!

Life takes one on different twists and turns and I have noticed that one's attitude makes all the difference in tackling the issue at hand. I'm a master at 'fixing' things and for a great deal of my life I prided myself on the fact that I was a 'kintsugi' or an intermediary trouble-shooter!

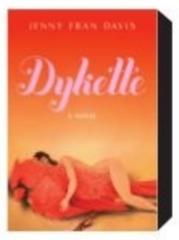
Now I pause and let the noise settle, and sometimes I realise that it doesn't need fixing...it's fine as is. Sometimes when you are in a dark place you think you are buried. But, if one looks at it like you have been planted...the perspective completely changes.

Mahdav and Simran Sehgal

I enjoy going out alone (now that the spouse is incapacitated) when close friends call for intimate soirees. Good friends Madhav Sehgal VP/GM of Leela Palace and Simran Sehgal invited us over for a relaxed evening of 'good spirits'. What could be a better spirit than a smooth Glen Morangie, which paired beautifully with an Indian dinner from their iconic Indian restaurant Jamavar. More often than not, I tend to be 'stuck to the hip' with my spouse. Since he is incapacitated I am venturing out on my own and liking it! The evening had a new mix of guests from the corporate world and it was refreshing to talk shop for a change.

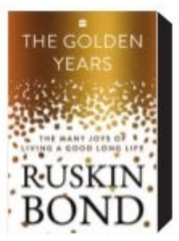
Life is a mixed bag of experiences and I seem to be enjoying mine...

BOOK NOOK



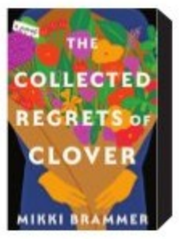
Dykette
by Jenny Fran Davis

Dykette is a love story at the crossroads of queer nonconformity and seductive normality. The novel deals with a young woman who embarks on a ten-day getaway with her partner and two other queer couples.



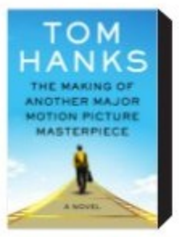
The Golden Years: The Many Joys of Living a Good Long Life
by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin gives us advice on how to make the most of this incredible gift of life and how to enjoy the advancing years that some of us are fortunate enough to have.



The Collected Regrets of Clover
by Mikki Brammer

After the beloved grandfather who raised her dies alone while she is traveling, Clover becomes a death doula in New York City, dedicating her life to ushering people peacefully through their end-of-life process.



The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
by Tom Hanks

Spanning 80 years of a changing America and culminating in the opening of the film, we meet characters that create Hollywood magic.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Spin the Wheel

A pottery workshop where you can build a skill while also having an immersive and therapeutic experience. Discover yourself by indulging in the art of pottery.

WHEN: June 6, 11am
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

MOVE, REFLECT AND INTROSPECT

Learn what your body is capable of and move along with Ronita Mookerji at her dance workshop that will help you reflect within through the power of motion.

WHEN: June 6, 7pm **WHERE:** Shoonya, Lal Bagh Rd **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Tanjore Painting Workshop

At this workshop, learn the age-old technique of making Tanjore paintings, which is a glimpse of our rich heritage.

WHEN: June 5, 10am
WHERE: Studio Chhavi, Bellandur **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Skandagiri Trek

This arduous-yet-rewarding hike leads you on a breathtaking adventure across the Skandagiri forest. Recommended for trekkers seeking a moderate to difficult trek near the city.

WHERE: Meetup at Gopalan Arcade, Mysuru Road
WHEN: June 5 onwards, 11pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

CONNECTIONS OVER CHAI

What better way to find a set of like-minded people than over a cup of chai? Create new connections and conversations over a cup of chai.

WHEN: June 5, 7pm
WHERE: Small World, ST Bed, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Money Games

Send your kids to a game-based skills camp where they can learn all-things money through simple games. **WHEN:** June 5, 9:30am **WHERE:** Building Blocks of Life, Whitefield
DETAILS: allevents.in

BENGALURU HUMORISTS

Giggle and snort with the standup comedians of Bengaluru at Baking Jokes – A Stand-up Comedy Night.

WHEN: June 5, 8.30pm
WHERE: Glen's Bakehouse, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

A GREEN ALTERNATIVE

To celebrate World Environment Day, volunteers take part in Green Wheels Cyclothon, to promote bicycles as a sustainable transport | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICK FIX

EASY MANGO SALAD

Contributed by **Sarika Gupta,** Thiruvananthapuram (Instagram: @worldfood_onmy_table)

INGREDIENTS

- **Mango:** 1 big (400 g)
- **Cucumber:** 1, big
- **Onion:** 1, big
- **Mint leaves:** a handful
- **Coriander leaves:** a handful
- **Tomato:** 2

DRESSING

- **Olive oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Honey:** 1/2 tbsp
- **Lime juice:** 1/2 tbsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp
- **Chilli flakes:** 1 tsp
- **Pepper:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Peel and soak the onion for an hour to remove its pungency.
- Cut and discard the seeds from cucumber and tomatoes. Slice.
- Finely chop mint and coriander leaves. Mix everything together and refrigerate.
- For dressing, mix olive oil, honey, chilli flakes, lime juice, salt and pepper together.
- Toss the dressing in the salad and serve immediately.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

BALA KAKASANA
(BABY CROW POSE)

This is an advanced level pose where the body is balanced on the forearms which makes this pose variation unique and interesting to build the required strength and balance for other arm balance poses such Kakasana or Bakasana.

STEPS

- Start in Malasana Variation (Garland Pose Variation). Stay here for a couple of breaths.
- Align to Malasana Hands Forward (Garland Pose Hands Forward). Inhale and exhale, and place the forearms on the floor.
- Lift the right foot off the floor and bring the knee to the right upper arm. Try to lift the left foot off the floor and place the left knee on the left upper arm.
- Slowly push the body, face down, and lift off the floor, going into Bala Kakasana.
- Push the belly in and squeeze the shoulders to get hold of the knees and chest to support the upper body. Don't tighten the body. Stay here as per capacity.
- Feel a pinching sensation around the upper arms and the tightness around the chest and shoulders. This will reduce with practise.
- Release and come back to Malasana Hands Forward. Finally relax in Staff Pose Hands Back Knees Bent.
- Repeat the pose if comfortable.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the arms, biceps and triceps and tones the core.
- Increases the flexibility of the spine.
- Sharpens concentration and awareness.
- Enhances balance, concentration, and openness to vulnerability.
- It is an excellent way to build confidence, strength, and calmness.
- Keeps one away from falls and injury, the body looks beautiful when aligned, and the flow of prana is better.
- Stimulates the abdominal and pelvic organs.
- Increases flow of blood and maintains good health function of digestive and reproductive systems.
- Helps oscillate between centering and re-centering constantly, getting a better sense of control over the body.
- Allows our body, mind, breath, thoughts, and emotions to balance.
- Great addition to yoga for athletes or sportspersons.

LIMITATIONS

People with any injury or have undergone any recent surgery, have visceral organ complications, weakness, physical illness, brittle bones, weak joints, arthritis, high blood pressure, dizziness, vertigo, anxiety, hernia, weak core, heart ailments, severe sciatica, herniated discs, migraine, women during pregnancy and menstruation, and senior citizens with weak joints must avoid this.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

SUBSCRIPTION

SonyLIV:	₹299/month
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹299/month
Netflix:	₹149/month
Prime Video:	₹179/month

REGIONAL

PATHU THALA (Tamil)

AGR is the head of an extremely powerful gang that is also influential in politics. Guna shoots a policeman and takes refuge in AGR's camp.

Cast: Silambarasan TR, Priya Bhavani Shankar

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

BHEED
(Hindi)

Chaos, violence, and fear erupts when East Indian workers hit a checkpoint during a COVID-19 lockdown that restricts travel.

Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Bhumi Pednekar

- **Watch on:** Netflix

RAANGA MAARTHAANDA
(Telugu)

Theatre star Raghava Rao announces his retirement from acting and distributes his wealth among his children, but this causes some issues.

Cast: Shivathmika Rajashekar, Prakash Raj

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

CHRISTOPHER (Malayalam)

Past and present weave together as a maverick cop is forced to go beyond the limits of the law when the system fails.

Cast: Mammootty, Vinay Rai

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

KATHAL- A JACKFRUIT MYSTERY
(Hindi)

A local politician's prized jackfruit trees have disappeared from his garden. A young policewoman desperately tries to solve this strange case to prove herself worthy of her position.

Cast: Sanya Malhotra, Anant V Joshi

- **Watch on:** Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

KISI KA BHAI KISI KI JAAN
(Hindi)

Two younger siblings must wait to marry until their elder brother becomes attached, but he's aging and still a bachelor.

Cast: Salman Khan, Pooja Hedge

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

NEELAVELICHAM (Malayalam)

A young, enthusiastic, and free-spirited writer stays in a desolate mansion, rumored to be haunted by the apparition of a young woman who committed suicide when she was betrayed in love.

Cast: Tovino Thomas, Rima Kallingal

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

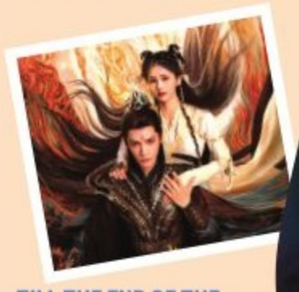
FOREIGN

THE GOOD BAD MOTHER (Korean, series)

A tragic accident leaves an ambitious prosecutor with the mind of a child, forcing him and his mother to embark on a journey to heal their relationship.

Cast: Lee Do-hyun, Ahn Eun-jin, Ra Mi-ran

- **Watch on:** Netflix



TILL THE END OF THE MOON (Chinese, series)

An immortal, Li Susu, is destined to time-travel 500 years back to prevent the death of a hostage prince to stop his transformation into the Devil god, who destroys four continents and three realms.

Cast: Luo Yunxi, Bai Lu, Deng Wei

- **Watch on:** Netflix, Viki Rakuten

MISSING (English)

When her mother disappears while on vacation in Colombia with her new boyfriend, June's search for answers is hindered by international red tape. Stuck thousands of miles away in Los Angeles, June creatively uses all the latest technology at her fingertips to try and find her before it's too late. However, as she digs ever deeper, her digital sleuthing soon raises more questions than answers.

Cast: Storm Reid, Nia Long, Megan Suri

- **Watch on:** Netflix

UNLOCKED (Korean)

A woman's life is turned upside-down after a dangerous man gets a hold of her lost cell phone and uses it to track her every move.

Cast: Im Si-wan, Chun Woo-hee, Kim Ye-won

- **Watch on:** Netflix

Art has always been a medium that spreads the message of hope and change. Through colours and lines, artists have brought attention to how we treat our Earth. On World Environment Day, here are some daring dialogues in design

If art could save the planet

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

Planet Earth is precious. It's the only place we have to call home. We write countless songs in praise of it, worship the ground as our mother, mythologies stem from her being, endowing every force with physical attributes, we decorate our walls with canvases of serene landscapes and yet, without a second thought, we abuse this very planet at will.

Art history has always been replete with representations of the physical world. Illustrations of flora and fauna have brightened many Palaeolithic caves in prehistoric times. Our ancient sculptures personified nature. Artists of yore celebrated the beauty of the surroundings with chisels and brushes, bringing alive meadows, fields and terrifying storms.

Tribal communities like the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh that has a recorded history of 1,400 years decorated their houses with the motifs of trees and animals in the belief that it would ring in prosperity. The art form of Madhubani from Bihar also focuses on nature and our relationship with it.

The passage of time has ensured the context in which the environment has been incorporated into art has changed from being an expression of beauty to a loud plea to pay heed to Mother earth's suffocating lungs. The 20th century has produced art that voiced concerns about climate change, pollution and ecological disasters and with the earth's health deteriorating, these voices have only become louder.

As we mark yet another World Environment Day today, here are some Indian artists who have gone beyond the mandatory tree-planting photo-op drives and incessantly visually brought forth the destructive effects to the universe due to insensitive human actions.

Arunkumar HG

Born into a farming family in Karnataka, Arunkumar's shift to the city in his later years made him acutely aware of ecological issues created by consumerism. Addressing these concerns through his art using materials like industrial wastes, he merely desires to present the truth on a visual platter. In his body of work called 'Con-struction', he raises questions about the abuse of our natural resources. "We often have knowledge about far-off things, but know nothing about the tree that is right in front of us." With that thought, the artist set about transforming some forest land next to his family farm, while simultaneously organising environmental awareness programmes which eventually evolved into a centre for Knowledge and Environment. Dividing his time between Delhi and his native village, Arunkumar hopes to spread the importance of putting an end to the ravages we unleash onto this world.

Ravi Agarwal

Delhi-based Ravi Agarwal wears many hats – artist, writer, curator and is also a well-known environmental activist and the founder of the environmental NGO Toxics Link. His innumerable works on environmental issues, often centred on the Yamuna river, seek to highlight the influence of human-nature relationships on our ecosystems. He has photographed the mighty river since the '90s, studying all her ebbs and flows in the course of time. Starting from his first series 'Alien Waters' with images of filth that the river carried, he went on to showcasing a multitude of perspectives of the river as a source of livelihood for communities. The artist set up a public art festival, with installations, boat rides, discussions and walks, to allow people to experience the glory of the river. Exploring the dangers lurking within these fast changing natural environments is not just part of his artistic practice but also his way of life.

Subodh Gupta

Subodh Gupta, best known for his monumental installations made of kitchen utensils, sounds a serious alarm for the planet in his 'Lonely City' series of paintings. His works on forest fires are eerie harbingers of natural disasters. As his landscapes disintegrate into unidentifiable forms, it almost feels like the flames consume not just the frames of the canvas but the soul of the planet too. Angered and saddened by the photographs of the fires in the Amazon caused by deforestation, Subodh created this series not just as a register of his reaction but to ignite the discussion of the way forward.

Sonia Mehra Chawla

Sonia Mehra Chawla minces no words when she says, "It is our arrogance that lets us believe that humanity is more significant." Core to the artistic practice of this artist are her concerns about the environment, climate change, sustainability and conservation. A visit to the Sundarbans years ago was the turning point. Travelling these forests for years now, this fragile ecosystem influences her practice. In her work titled 'Residue' for the Yinchuan Biennale in 2016, decay was the keyword. Images of mangrove forests on the threshold of ruin, decomposing branches and cracked patches of soil envelop the viewer, presenting degeneration bleakly with the pronounced absence of the human species. The vision of this future would hopefully stir us into constructive action. In her 'Universe in Details' series, she looks at the role of microbes in mangrove ecosystems. In another work, a photo of oil-stained feet presents a reminder of the oil spill that wrecked the Sundarbans in 2004.

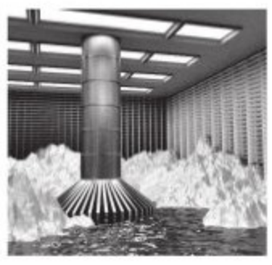
Somnath Hore

Somnath Hore's (1921-2006) portrayals of The Bengal Famine of 1943 still remain as stark reminders of the devastating consequences of humanitarian disasters. Greatly affected by the human suffering he witnessed during the man-made famine that killed millions, he documented the emaciated, starving human forms which continue to tug at our collective emotional chords.

*By bringing attention to our natural world, conveying the impact of altering our ecosystem and providing the impetus to rethink our callous attitude to the damage we inflict on the well-being of this planet, art has persistently played its part in trying to restore and repair this planet. It has been said, "**The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it**." The greatest truth that we must accept, however, is that no one else can save it, but us.*

Parvathi Nayar

Multi-disciplinary artist, Parvathi Nayar, invited Chennai residents to drop off blue and white household plastic trash as part of her project. As the bins she placed in the collection centres spilled over with contributions of trash, she used them to recreate Japanese artist Hokusai's 'Great Wave', by building a giant wave of plastic waste. Nayar wanted to make this a talking point to discuss the environmental crisis that is drowning us. Nayar's art talks about different engagements with our environment and specifically with water as a contested resource.



Pranay Dutta

The youngest artist to be featured in this edition of the Kochi Muziris Biennale, Pranay Dutta uses computer generated imagery to create an apocalyptic vision of tomorrow. His visual vocabulary is a gloomy representation of ecological disasters. In his video, 'Beneath a Steel Sky', he navigates another future with the colonisation of the ocean. With glacial melting, unpredictable climate changes, he envisions nature brought indoors and made to thrive in artificial climates under controlled conditions. Mountain ranges float on the sea within chambers. Humans are nowhere in this imagined scenario – a frightening one indeed. His work at the Kochi Biennale on the other hand, drew attention to the global water crisis and the urgent need for better water management. He created virtual landscapes where water was the means of trade enabling the purchase of goods and services. It was his attempt at creating an awareness of the perils of water scarcity and what an essential role water conservation plays in the future of our world.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARATHI VISWANATH alias JAYABHARATHI VISWANATH** by affidavit dated 29.05.2023 executed before **P.N.Nagesha** Notary Bangalore, do hereby confirm that henceforth I will be known and called as **"JAYABHARATHI VISWANATH"** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAAJ FELIX** S/o Late R S Xavier, aged about 55 years, R/of No. 123, 2nd Block, 1st Floor, Janapriya Nivas Apartments, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Near Chikkabanavara Railway Station, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560090, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **RAAJ FELIX** and **FELIX X** are one and the same and belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 03-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. MAHESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJENDRA KUMAR BEHERA**, aged about 20 years, S/o Ramachandra Behera, permanent R/of Binadanda Village, Rajgharpokhari Panchayath, Bhadrak District, Odisha State-756131, presently R/at No. 40, Rajani Farm, Rajagopala Nagar, Peenya Post, Bengaluru-560058, do hereby declare that my correct name is **RAJENDRA KUMAR BEHERA** but in my PF Account bearing UAN 101517092939 in this my name is wrongly mentioned as **JITENDRA BEHERA** instead of **RAJENDRA KUMAR BEHERA**, vide affidavit dated 02-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.S.BAMMAPPANAVAR** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. P. BALENDRA**, S/o. Pandal Chitti Babu, Aged about 74 years, R/at. BSR Signature, Flat No. F2, Navajyothi Street, Windsor Layout, Geddalahalli, Bangalore 560077, hereby declare that **"BALACHANDAR PANDAL, BALENDAR C PANDAL, PANDAL CHITTIBABU P.BALENDRAN" BALENDAR**, are changed to **"P. BALENDRA"** for all purpose vide affidavit dated 01/06/2023, sworn to before Advocate and Notary D. Rajanna, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SPHURTI GIRISH BELLENAVAR**, Daughter of RAVI ALAGODI, wife of GIRISH KUMAR BELLENAVAR, Aged 25, residing at No. 178, Sector No. 61, Navanagar, Bagalkot - 587 103, do hereby declare that **SPHURTI ALAGODI** and **SPHURTI GIRISH BELLENAVAR** both the names one and the same person. After marriage my name is **SPHURTI GIRISH BELLENAVAR**. My marriage certificate having number **BYP-HM161-2023-24**, Aadhaar Card No. **8781 4341 1412**, PanCard No. **EGXPA7660D**. Vide affidavit dated 03.06.2023 sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHA. A. A,** W/o NAGARAJ. P. C, aged about 39 years, Residing at No. 295/40, 5th Cross, 1st Phase, 1st Stage, H.M.T. Layout, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHA. A. A** to **ASHA NAGARAJ** vide affidavit dated 21/4/2012 sworn to before A.M. Rama Murthy Reddy, Advocate & Notary Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRAMOD KUMAR K.P,** S/o Prasad Rao .K.K, aged about 42 years and **VIMALA .R** W/o Pramod Kumar K.P, aged about 35 years, both are R/of No. 4/1, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Aralimara Road, Behind Government School, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **NISCHITH K.P** to **ATHARV KAPSE .P**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **ATHARV KAPSE .P** only, vide affidavit dated 02-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RATNA .N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
Army No. 06365510Y, Rank: EX-TS-NAIK, Name: **SAMPATH KUMAR .C**, aged 70 years, S/o Chandrashekar, Presently R/at No. 2, Old Model House, Murphy Town, Halasuru, Bangalore-560008, have changed my name from **"CHANDRAYASAN SAMPATH KUMAR"** to **"SAMPATH KUMAR .C"**, sworn before Notary Public **A.R. MUNEER AHMED** at Bangalore on **03-06-2023.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, HITESH, working in private company, and resident of #-502, Purva Sunflower, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023, have changed my name from **HITESH** to **HITESHKUMAR KANSARA** vide affidavit dated 02.06.2023 sworn before notary public, K.P. Ramesh, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAGHAVENDRA KEDLAYA H.** aged about 46 years, S/o. Late. Vishveshwara Kedlaya, R/at Flat Shree S1, No.21/22, Girinagar Enclave, 14th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my son's name from **H.SIDHARATHA KEDLAYA to H.SIDHARTHA KEDLAYA** vide affidavit dt: 03/06/2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary B.Gopala Krishna, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mohit Pimplapure**, S/o. Shrikant Pimplapure, Aged about 24 years, Residing at No. 12, 19th Cross, 20th Main, SMS Layout, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHIT PIMPLAPURE** to **MOHIT PIMPLAAPURE** vide affidavit dated 02.06.2023 sworn to before A. Idinabba, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MALAVIKA BINU** D/o Binu Punnorathu Chandrasekharan, Aged about 20 years, resident of No.4162, Sobha Forest View, Vajrahalli Road, Off Kanakapura Road, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru - 560 109, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **MALAVIKA BINU** to **MALAVIKA B NAIR**, vide affidavit dated 02/06/2023 sworn before notary **H.G PADMANABHA RAO**, Reg. No.12464, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REHANA .R,** D/o Late Rahimathulla Khan .E, R/at No. 9, 7th Cross, Near B.P. Bakery, Lakshmipuram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560008, have changed my name from **"CHANDNI .R"** to **"REHANA .R"**, sworn before Notary Public **A.R. MUNEER AHMED** at Bangalore on 01-06-2023.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KERAN JERUSHA PAULINE** (New Name), D/o. JOB ARUNODHAYA RAJ, aged 28 years, Residing at NO.101, NAKSHATRA APARTMENT, A-BLOCK, DOOR NO.16, 7TH CROSS, OPP. SIDDARTHA SCHOOL, LINGARAJAPURAM, BENGLAURU NORTH, ST. THOMAS TOWN POST, BENGALURU-560084, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **KERAN JERUSHA PAULINE JOB** (Old Name) to **KERAN JERUSHA PAULINE** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **KERAN JERUSHA PAULINE** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 02/06/2023 before Notary **N.KANCHIVARADARAJU** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, POOJARA POOJA, working in private company, and resident of # 209, 12th Main, Manjunath Nagar, Near Saibaba Temple, Besaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name from **POOJARA POOJA** to **POOJA PUJAR**, vide affidavit dated 01.06.2023 sworn before notary public, K.P. Ramesh, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANJULA.K.V** D/o Venkataramanaiah, Aged about 20 years, resident of Vinayakanagara, Opp:Sub-Registrar Office, Ashokappa Building, Hesaraghatta Village, Post and Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560 088 have changed my name from **MANJULA.K.V to AMULYA.V.RAM.** vide affidavit dt: 25/03/2015 sworn before Advocate and Notary Anitha Bai, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TARANI.S,** aged 28 years, (dob 17-03-1995) D/o Sri. Raghurama Shetty and Smt. Devaki Shedthi, presently residing at Flat # 401, B Block, 4th Floor, Affinity Sowparnika Apartment, Surabhi Layout, 3rd Cross Road, Narayanappa Garden, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064, KARNATAKA, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RESHMA SHETTY** to **TARANI .S** vide Affidavit dated 01.06.2023, sworn to before Smt. C. Sharada, Advocate & Notary, Govt., of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHARMILA** aged about 48 yrs, w/o Late Sridhar, residing at No,44,2nd main,pela 515 army base,Gowtham puram, Ulsoor, Bangalore , 560 008.Karnataka, That my original name is Sharmila, in all records & documents but in the Lourdes Church mentioned as Arokiamary Jacintha but I have adopted my name as **Sharmila** and applicable in all purpose in future.vide affidavit dated **3rd June 2023**, Sworn before notary A.R Muneer Ahamed, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VISHNU K.S.** Son of KRISHNASAMY S., Aged about 19 Years, Residing at No.1, 2nd Cross, Gupta Layout, Halasuru, Bangalore-560008, I declare that my father name mentioned in my marks card of ICSE, ISC certificate as **Krishnaswamy S** instead of **KRISHNASAMY S**, in future my father name continued as **KRISHNASAMY S** vide affidavit dated 2/6/2023 sworn to before N.K.Lakshmana advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Spateeka Prakash Kalkunte,** D/o Prakash K.N. aged about 43 years, W/o Raghav G.V., No. 802, 1st main, 1 A Cross, 7th Block, Near Auden School, 2nd Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru -560085, have changed my name from **Spateeka Prakash K** to **Spateeka Prakash Kalkunte,** vide affidavit dated 02/6/2023 sworn to before G.Dayananda advocate and notary Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SHRI SWAMY P. GOWDA,** S/o Shri Puttaswamy, aged about 42 years, R/at No. 16, Ganapathi Nagar, Thammenahalli Main Road, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-560090, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **OVIYA S GOWDA** and **ATHISHAYA .S GOWDA** are one and the same and belongs to my daughter only, henceforth she shall be known and called as **ATHISHAYA S. GOWDA** only, vide affidavit dated 31-05-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. MAHESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAMBHAVI RAMANATHAN** (New Name), aged 34 years, D/o. BALASUBRAMANYAM RAMANATHAN, Residing at NO.F-404, ADARSH PALACE, 47TH CROSS, 5TH BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU SOUTH, BENGALURU-560041, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **SHAMBAVI RAMANATHAN** (Old Name) to **SHAMBHAVI RAMANATHAN** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHAMBHAVI RAMANATHAN** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 02/06/2023 before Notary **N.KANCHIVARADARAJU** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TASLIM**, W/o. Nawaz Ahmed, No. 40/2, 4th Floor, 9th Cross, Someshwara Nagar, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore- 560011, I, declare that my name wrongly mentioned in my Passport (No. A7311727) as **TASLIM SHAIK KALEEMULLA** instead of **TASLIM** and I have declared my correct is **TASLIM** as per affidavit dated 02/06/2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Shivashanakarappa, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Solomon Yohan Gundami @ Motilal Y Gundami**, S/o. Yohan, Gundami, Aged about 65 years, No. 45, Chinnappa View, Second Floor, Flat No. 201, First Cross, Vivekanandanagar, Near Banaswadi Railway Station, Bengaluru - 560 033, do hereby declare that my name used to be both **Solomon Yohan Gundami** and **Motilal Y Gundami** and as well as **Motilal Y Gundami.** I hereafter called, known and distinguished not by my former name i.e., **Solomon Yohan Gundami** but with name of **Motilal Y Gundami.** Vide affidavit dated 03.06.2023 sworn to before Uday Kariyappa B.G., Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **BALAJI THYAGARAJAN**, S/o. K. Thyagarajan, Aged about 47 years, Residing at D202, Royal Legend Apartments, Kodichikkanahalli Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068, do hereby declare that **BALAJI THYAGARAJAN** and **T. BALAJI** both the names are one and the same person belongs me only. I state that I have an Aadhaar Card, therein my name has been written as **BALAJI THYAGARAJAN** (with expanding of initial 'T') Vide affidavit dated 03.06.2023 sworn to before Dharani .P., Advocate & Notary Public Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Arun Kumar**, Aadhar card Number 777062291371 s/o Late patrick, residing at No 11, 2nd main,3rd cross, Gowtham puram,Halsur, Bangalore-560 008, I have changed my name from **Anthony Disouza** to Arun Kumar vide affidavit dated 02/02/2023, sworn before notary A.R.Muneer Ahamed,Bangalore.

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VINAY RAJKUMAR'S *GRAMAYANA* GETS A RELAUNCH

Directed by debutant Devanur Chandru, the film will now be backed by production houses, Lahari Films and Venus Entertainers

G Manohar

K P Sreekanth

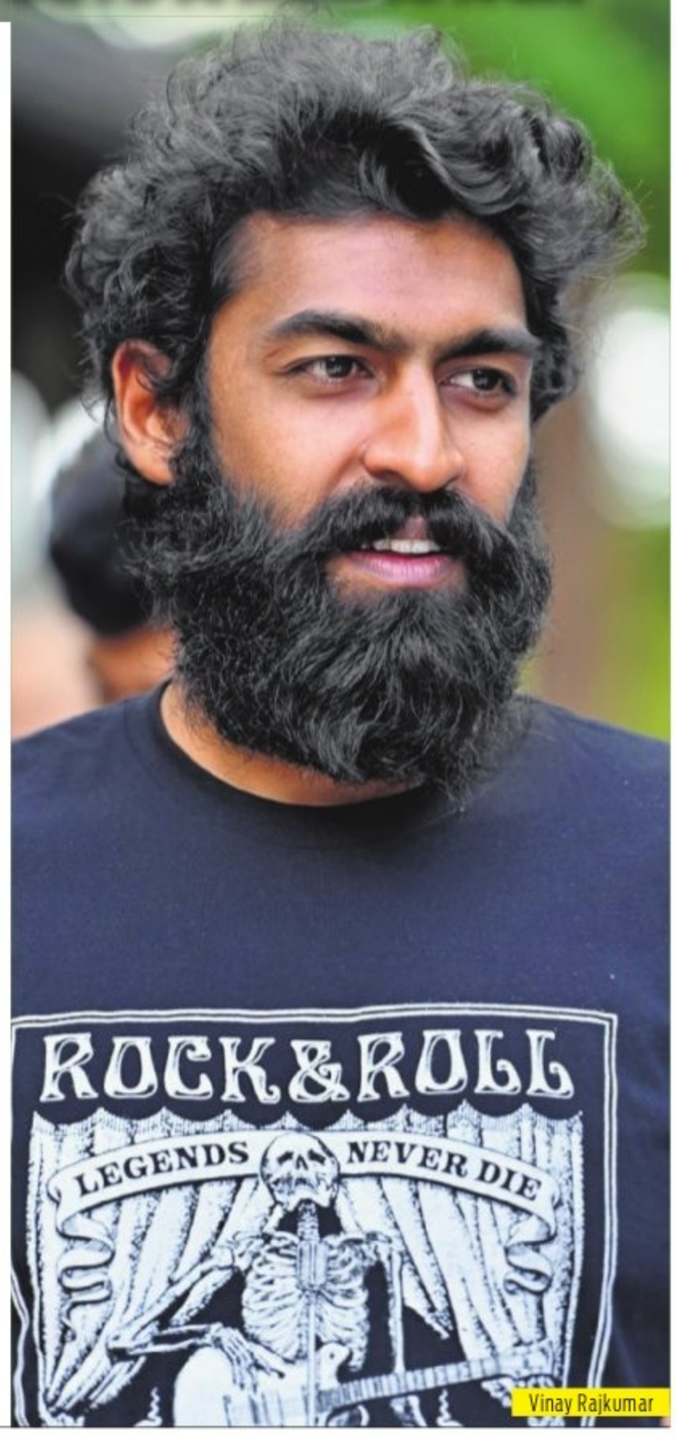
A SHARADHAA

VINAY Rajkumar's film *Gramayana*, which marks the directorial debut of Devanur Chandru, was announced in 2018. In fact, the project was underway in Devarnuru, and the makers had shot for 25 days but, unfortunately, it was halted midway due to unforeseen circumstances. However, now the film is getting a significant boost with G Manohar of Lahari Films and KP Sreekanth of Venus Entertainers, bankrolling the project. An official confirmation has been made by the producers, and the project is set to be relaunched on June 8.

The director had envisioned a village-based storyline for Vinay Rajkumar, which will star him as a rural youth, named Sixth Sense Seena. Initially, the makers had considered Amurtha Iyengar for the female lead, and Aparna, a senior actor, and popular for her reality show, *Maja Talkies*, was announced as making her comeback to the silver screen after 30 years. Music director Poornachandra Tejaswi and cinematographer Abhishek Kasargod were also onboard the project. However, with the involvement of new production houses, some changes are expected, including in the cast and crew.

As of now, the makers have confirmed Vinay's presence in the project, but it remains to be seen if the other cast and technical crew will be retained. Details regarding this will be shared by the production team on the launch date.

Apart from *Gramayana*, Vinay is also working on *Pepe*, directed by Sreelesh Nair, and *Andondittu Kaala*, helmed by Keerthi, both of which are at different stages of production.



Vinay Rajkumar

Bhairathi Ranagal will be a significant turning point in my career: Rukmini Vasanth

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Rukmini Vasanth is currently in the spotlight after announcements about her projects have been making headlines. While she is set to make her Tamil debut with a project headlined by Vijay Sethupathi, Rukmini has also been cast in the much-anticipated Shivarajkumar film, *Bhairathi Ranagal*. The Narthan directorial, backed by Geetha Shivarajkumar under the Geetha Pictures banner, is a prequel to the filmmaker's 2017 debut, *Mufti*.

An official announcement about Rukmini being part of the project was made on Sunday. The actor is shooting for the yet-to-be-titled Vijay Sethupathi film in Malaysia. Expressing her elation in starring opposite Shivarajkumar in *Bhairathi Ranagal*, Rukmini says, "When I was approached for the role and learned about my character, I immediately seized the opportunity without a second thought. It is undoubtedly one of the significant turning points in my career."

Rukmini believes being part of commercial projects that prioritise both entertainment value and meaningful content is important, and *Bhairathi Ranagal* will be one such project. "The director has crafted an excellent plot that does justice to the tag of being a prequel."

Rukmini's lineup of releases includes *Baanadariyalli* starring Ganesh, and Hemanth M Rao's *Sapta Sagaraadaache Ello*, starring Rakshit Shetty. She is also the lead in Sriimurali's next, *Bagheera*, and is expected to complete shooting her portions soon. "As an actor, the pandemic was a lull moment for me, but I'm glad to make up for all the lost time, and I'm raring to go ahead," says Rukmini, who will simultaneously balance the schedules of the Tamil film, directed by Arumugakumar. and *Bhairathi Ranagal*.

The shooting of *Bhairathi Ranagal* is expected to begin on June 10. Apart from Shivarajkumar and Rukmini, the film also stars Rahul Bose, who will play the primary antagonist of the film.

Narthan has retained his core *Mufti* team of composer Ravi Basrur and cinematographer Naveen Kumar for *Bhairathi Ranagal*.

Rukmini, one of the most sought-after actors right now, feels overwhelmed to work alongside Shivarajkumar in Narthan's next

Shivarajkumar and Narthan

Pruthvi Ambaar to headline a romcom

The film will be directed by Ashwin Padmaroop, and will be joined by Rahul Ameen as a co-director

Ashwin Padmaroop and Rahul Amin

Pruthvi Ambaar

CE FEATURES

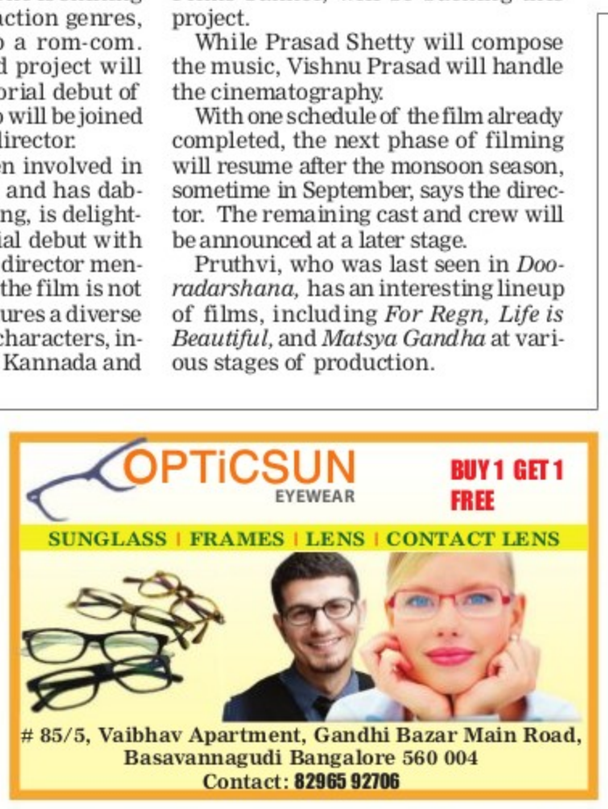
PRUTHVI Ambaar, who is shifting between love and action genres, has now taken up a rom-com. The yet-to-be-titled project will serve as the directorial debut of Ashwin Padmaroop, who will be joined by Rahul Amin as a co-director.

Ashwin, who has been involved in animation for 14 years, and has dabbled in digital filmmaking, is delighted to make his directorial debut with a romantic comedy. The director mentions that the subject of the film is not a typical romcom. It features a diverse ensemble of 7 to 8 main characters, including well-known Kannada and Tulu artists. Hariprasad Rai, a producer of Tulu films under his HPR Films banner, will be backing this project.

While Prasad Shetty will compose the music, Vishnu Prasad will handle the cinematography.

With one schedule of the film already completed, the next phase of filming will resume after the monsoon season, sometime in September, says the director. The remaining cast and crew will be announced at a later stage.

Pruthvi, who was last seen in *Dooradarshana*, has an interesting lineup of films, including *For Regn, Life is Beautiful*, and *Matsya Gandha* at various stages of production.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